

August 2, 1920.

Mr. Harry Atcheson,

Cordova, Alaska.

My dear Mr. Atcheson:-

We have just received a letter from Rev. E. L. Winterberger to the effect that he is of the opinion that as he had been at Skagway but a year it would not be fair to them for him to leave them so soon, and that therefore he is unable to accept the invitation of the Cordova Church.

You are doubtless aware that Dr. Condit had a conference with the Rev. R. S. Nickerson of Bellevue, Idaho, with regard to his taking up the work at Cordova. I am writing to Mr. Nickerson today that the way is now clear for him to go to your town. I trust that his answer will be a favorable one and that when you see him and he begins his ministry that the Cordova church will be much pleased with him.

And with best wishes, I am,

Cordially yours,

JD/I.

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U.S. A.HEADQUARTERS
NO. 156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORKTERRITORY OF ALASKA
JAMES H. CONDIT, D.D., GENERAL MISSIONARY
JUNEAU, ALASKA

August 10, 1920

Rev. J.A. Marquis, D.D.,

156 5th Avenue, New York.

Dear Dr. Marquis:

On arrival here I learned that the general impression is that the Bear will not get through to Barrow again this year. This is based on the events of the past two years and also on instructions from Washington (so I am told by one of the officials here) to the effect that the captain shall not push into the ice too hard. If conditions are favorable she will get through but not otherwise.

Because of this uncertainty I instructed Mr. Brown and Mr. Eide that I would expect them to go to Teller and go north with the freight. I offered to take the rest of the party on the Bear if they desired to take chances on getting through but while the matter was under discussion the Hermann came in and when the captain expressed a willingness to take Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Eide and children and Miss Jordan to Teller they elected to stay with Mr. Brown and Mr. Eide. The whole party, therefore, has gone to Teller and will go north either on the Olga or Hermann as arrangements may be made there.

The Hermann has room for one-hundred tons of freight from Teller to Barrow. I instructed Capt. Peterson to confer with the Olga captain, Mr. Allen, and also with Mr. Whittard, the wharfinger at Teller, and arrange among them to take all the hospital freight. Mr. Brown will urge that the freight go on one or the other of these boats and that no dependence be put upon a second trip of the Olga. No communication has been possible with Teller since I came here and therefore I have no word from Whittard. If such word comes before I go north on the Bear, which is now due, I will write you again before going. I feel assured that the hospital freight will go through and was much relieved to find that Capt. Peterson had the additional freight space.

It is my hope that I will be able to get through on the Bear to Barrow. I felt that it was not advisable for me to go on the Hermann since the time of her return is very uncertain and I might have been delayed beyond the time of the sailing of the last Victoria. I also had the Wales shipment on my hands and other business matters to take care of here.

Dr. J.A. Marquis

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August 10.1920

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
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JUNEAU, ALASKA

Before leaving Seattle I succeeded in arranging with the Jewel Guard to carry our Wales freight. The rate from here to Wales is \$22 per ton and cartage and lighterage additional besides labor in landing freight at Wales.

One load has already gone and the balance will be taken soon. Dr. and Mrs. Greist left on the mail boat on the 4th, the same day that the Barrow party sailed. They are probably at their station now.

I am of the opinion that a mistake has been made in sending these people to Wales. Dr. Greist is so deaf as to interfere seriously with his work as a missionary. His wife is much more deaf than he and must use an audiphone constantly. More serious than this is the fact that she went to Wales against her wish as she repeated to Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Eide on the way up. Just before leaving her home she had suffered a miscarriage and in caring for this it was discovered that she required an operation for removal of appendix. All this she went through with. She was not in physical condition for the trip and is not strong now in undertaking herwork. I wonder at the action of the doctor in bringing her north under the conditions. They have a two year old child which they do not control and which was the source of much annoyance and unfavorable comment on the way up and while here. The judgement of the rest of the people coming to mission work in the north corresponds with my own. I do not believe that the doctor is of the type to succeed in such a station. He is possessed with the spirit of the adventurer, counts much on his hunting and ski travel, paid express (or rather the Board did) on a box of bullets from Monticello to Seattle, etc., etc.

It is too soon to pass final judgement and he is on the field at great expense to the Board. Let us hope that he may do some good there. You have a copy of my letter to him, written before we left Seattle, in which I remonstrated against his going to Wales. Had I not felt that the Board was both morally and legally bound to send him on his way I should have turned him back even from Seattle. In any event I would have held him there until the Board had again considered his appointment.

I will write you again as to this on my return to Juneau.

I hope to get back again to Nome in time to take the next Victoria out--about September first. If not I may decide to return to Juneau via the Yukon river.

With the hope that the summer has brought you renewed strength and with kind regards I remain

Sincerely yours,

James H. Condit

PRESBYTERY OF ALASKA

PRESBYTERY OF YUKON
JAMES H. CONDIT
STATED CLERK

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS

OF THE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U.S. A.

HEADQUARTERS
NO. 156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

TERRITORY OF ALASKA
JAMES H. CONDIT, D.D., GENERAL MISSIONARY
JUNEAU, ALASKA

August 10, 1920.

Rev. John A. Marquis, D. D.,
156 Fifth Avenue, New York.

My dear Dr. Marquis:

Your letter of July 28 is before me; thank you for the practical interest you are showing in the education of Home Mission children in distant stations.

Your letter pertaining to the Greist affair will be forwarded to Dr. Condit just as soon as it is possible to reach him.

Kindly extend my congratulations to your daughter Sara on her interesting details of the Point Barrow trip as printed in the Continent. Our younger daughter will be with us this fall and winter.

Trusting that Mrs. Marquis and you may be fully rested and strengthened to take up your work again, I am,

Sincerely,

Nellie Austin Condit

Quotation from letter of Rev. A.G.Shriver to Rev. J.L.Hughes under date August 18,1920.

In a letter from Dr. Young I have the following:

"I entirely sympathize with your views of the Course matter. Mr. Course was treated shamefully and no amount of explanation or apology will convince the people of Anchorage to the contrary. But the Board was not to blame for it. The action was taken entirely by the General Missionary and the deed was done before the Board had a chance to say a word. Had it not been too late the Board at least would have given Mr.Course his choice of other fields in Alaska rather than a summary dismissal. But he is gone and is writing us beautiful letters showing a very fine Christian spirit."

Comment of Genral Missionary

Even if the above statement as to the part of the General Missionary were true it is not the part of good management for an officer of the Board to criticise the actions of a superintendent to one of the men under his jurisdiction. This is especially true in that the General Missionary had no opportunity to defend himself. The apparent purpose seems to have been to discredit the General Missionary.

FIRE PROOF

CABLE ADDRESS: TELFRYE

EUROPEAN



SEATTLE'S NEWEST AND LARGEST HOTEL

HOTEL FRYE

DAN W. BASS AND P. H. WATT
MANAGERS

SEATTLE

September 16, 1920.

SUBJECT: -- Wainwright.

Rev. John A. Marquis, D.D.,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Marquis:-

While at Wainwright this year I learned from Mrs. Gregg, Government Teacher at that point, that had Rev. Mr. Hoare lived, it was his intention to spend the present Winter at Wainwright with the purposes of organizing an Episcopal Mission there.

For several years Dr. Spence has called attention to the fact that Episcopal Missionaries from Point Hope and elsewhere, have been visiting Wainwright, baptizing children and conducting religious services, but always disclaiming any intent of drawing these people away from their Presbyterian affiliations at Barrow. Both Dr. Spence and formerly Dr. Marsh, have visited Wainwright occasionally. Some forty people at Wainwright, and some forty-five at Icy Cape, farther along the Coast, are on the Roll of our Barrow Church. While Point Hope is 250 miles distant from Icy Cape, Barrow is but 100 miles, and Wainwright but 60 miles from that point. These stations should clearly be included in the Barrow Sector.

I would recommend a combined Church and Manse at Wainwright, and place an active young Minister there, to care for this point and Icy Cape. There are probably 150 people, who make their home at Wainwright, with 50 at Icy Cape.

In addition to the spiritual need, is the coal situation. With a man at Wainwright, it would be comparatively easy to secure an adequate coal supply for the Hospital and work at Barrow, and have it ready for shipment when transportation is available. This year, it was impossible to obtain the 150 tons which we wanted for Barrow, because it had not been mined. It is not probable that there will be more than that amount for both Government School and Mission. As a Branch of our Barrow work, and in order that the Northern Coast may be properly reached, it is important that a Mission be established at Wainwright the coming year.

Sincerely yours, *James H. Condit*

SEP 22 1920

FIRE PROOF

CABLE ADDRESS/TELEPHONE

EUROPEAN



SEATTLE'S NEWEST AND LARGEST HOTEL

HOTEL FRYE

DAN W. BASS AND P. H. WATT
MANAGERS

SEATTLE

September 16, 1920.

SUBJECT: St. Lawrence Island.

Reverend John A. Marquis, D.D.
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Marquis:-

While in Nome I met a Native by the name of Seppela from St. Lawrence Island, who expressed great interest in the reopening of our Mission work there. This Native when a boy learned to read and write from Professor Gambell, a Presbyterian and Member of my Church at Wapello, Iowa, who was the first Teacher and Missionary on the Island some twenty years ago, and who with his wife and little daughter were drowned on the foundering of the "LADY JANE GRAY" on which boat they were returning to their station, some twenty years ago. There are now over 4000 reindeer on the St. Lawrence Island, of which Seppela owns 1000. Conditions for reindeer propagation are ideal. For the first time this year Lomen Brothers have contracted for 600 head of these deer for market at \$11.00 per head. In addition to the deer, the Island is rich in other resources, and the future financial status of this people is assured. According to the 1920 census there are 309 people on the Island, and fifty school children. The birth rate for the past two years has been in excess of the death rate. The future seems bright.

In Nome I met the young couple who go as the only teachers to this people, and the only white persons on the Island for the coming year. I consider them utterly unfit for the work. I was so much impressed with this fact that I remonstrated against their going to Mr. Evans, District Superintendent of Education at Nome, and did so in the presence of the teachers on the following grounds:

First, -- Infidelity, inasmuch as they do not accept the Divinity of Christ. I happened to overhear the young woman say "I do not believe in Christ as Divine. Of course, he was a Great Teacher, but I believe in beating Him at His

Red. John A. Marquis.

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own game."

Second, -- Unsound social views, in that they stated that they wanted to get ~~the~~ St. Lawrence Island to get away from the convention of society and did not want a third teacher to go with them, as Mr. Lopp desired. They also said that they did not consider the marriage ceremony as essential, and many other erratic statements.

I regret exceedingly the going of such people to this place to be the sole representatives of government education and religion.

I sincerely hope that our work may be reopened there next year, and urge that a search be immediately instituted for a Doctor and wife to go to that place. As you remember the buildings now used by the Bureau of Education at this point belong to our Woman's Board of Home Missions. I would suggest that arrangements for next year be made in consultation with Mr. Lopp. I believe it will be possible to hit upon some plan by which the mutual interests of Bureau and Board may be conserved to the advantage of each. It is important that such arrangements be set in motion at once, if this Station is to be reopened, and I would suggest that action on this matter be taken up at an early date.

Sincerely yours,

James H. Condit

General Missionary.



SEATTLE'S NEWEST AND LARGEST HOTEL

HOTEL FRYE

DAN W. BASS AND P. H. WATT
MANAGERS

SEATTLE

September 16, 1920.

SUBJECT: -- Relation of Methodist Church to the work
at Wales.

Rev. John A. Marquis, D.D.,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Doctor Marquis:-

Mrs. D.B. Street, the Kenesaw, Washington, D.C., Secretary of Deaconess and Hospital Work, of the Woman's Missionary Society of the Methodist Church, and also a Member of the Inter-Church Committee, Mrs. J.H. Parsons, 3507 Sixth Avenue, Tacoma, Washington, National Bureau Secretary for Alaska, of the same Society, and Reverend J.T. McQueen, Juneau, Alaska, Superintendent of Methodist Missions for Alaska, were fellow passengers with me from Nome, having come down the Yukon River from Skagway, in the interests of their work.

They have called my attention, and as I understand it, in an official and formal way, to the apparent violation of the new allocation agreement between denominations in Alaska in the establishment of our work at Wales. They contend that Wales is in the section allotted to them, and that they had expected to survey that field this Summer with a view to making overtures to the Congregational Society for the acquisition of that work, and the taking over of the property. They expressed surprise that the Presbyterian Board has taken over the field without any reference to the recent comity agreement and without consideration by the Inter-Church Committee.

I believe that in the interest of efficient administration their contention is right. They could care for Wales in connection with their important orphanage work at Nome to good advantage. Apparently also the Seward Peninsula is clearly their field. In consultation with Mrs. Street, I called attention to the fact that in our judgment the only adequate provision for Wales is along the line of

Rev. J. John A. Marquis.

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Medical Missionary work, requiring a Minister, who is also a Doctor. This would seem to put the administration under the Men's Board, rather than the Woman's Organization.

It would seem that the matter is one for consideration at the Inter-Church Council, and I would suggest that it be so taken up. If it is deemed advisable to transfer this work to the Methodist Society, it might be advisable to do so on condition that they continue the work, according to present plans, as well as assume the expenditures which we have made. It is just possible also, that they would be glad to avail themselves of the services of Dr. Greist in this new arrangement, and that he would be willing to continue in charge under such adjustment. Should this adjustment be made it would open the way for taking up the work at Wainwright in our own territory, and also make more advisable the re-opening of our St. Lawrence Island field.

This matter should be considered and decided as soon as possible, in order to open the way early for the above extension of our activities.

Sincerely yours,

James H. Condit
General Missionary.

SEP 22 1920

FIRE PROOF

CABLE ADDRESS/TELETYPE

EUROPEAN



SEATTLE'S NEWEST AND LARGEST HOTEL

HOTEL FRYE

DAN W. BASS AND P. H. WATT
MANAGERS

SEATTLE

September 16, 1920.

SUBJECT:-- Coal at Point Hope.

Reverend John A. Marquis, D.D.,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Marquis:--

You will remember that upon the failure of the "BEAR" to reach Barrow we were compelled to leave some coal and other freight at Point Hope. This year I attempted to have this coal taken up on the "BEAR". I found 104 sacks on the beach and got 42 sacks on board, when a storm came up which prevented taking any more, and I was compelled to leave the balance of 62 sacks. I deemed it advisable to dispose of these 62 sacks to Rev. Mr. Thomas, who expressed a willingness to take it over, and will take up the matter of paying for the same with his Board.

The matter is complicated. It seems that Rev. Mr. Hoare used some of this coal, some eleven sacks, and that eight more were used by the Mission after his death. Also that the Native Co-Operative Store, at Wainwright, had a Representative at Point Hope during the Winter with a stock of goods, and that he also used some of the coal.

With your approval I will continue correspondence regarding this matter until an adjustment is secured, Because of distance and difficulty of mail service, it will require considerable time. In the meantime, will you give me your remembrance of the amount of coal which we left at Point Hope. My recollection is, that there was ten tons. Does that agree with your estimate? The small boat, Evenrude Engine, and Gasoline, I took to Barrow.

Sincerely yours,

General Missionary.

SEP 22 1920

FIRE PROOF

CABLE ADDRESS: TELFRYE

EUROPEAN



SEATTLE'S NEWEST AND LARGEST HOTEL

HOTEL FRYE

DAN W. BASS AND R. H. WATT
MANAGERS

SEATTLE

September 16, 1920.

Reverend John A. Marquis, D.D.,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Marquis:-

first Regarding my Summer trip to the Northward, my plan is to write ~~now~~ a general letter descriptive of the Summer itinerary, ~~and~~ following with other letters dealing with specific fields and matters.

I left Juneau on the 22nd of June on the supposition that the S.S. "VICTORIA" would leave Seattle on July 1st, as scheduled. As a matter of fact we did not get away until July 13th. I found Dr. Greist already in Seattle, and was glad that there was ample time to attend to his affairs and get his freight on the "VICTORIA". He needed much help along this line, and I am satisfied that I was able to save the Board a considerable by being on the ground to advise and purchase. It required all the influence of Mr. Gould and other influential friends in Seattle to get the Wales shipment on the "VICTORIA". We were assured positively at the first that there was no space available; only by strenuous effort did we succeed in getting space for this sailing.

We reached St. Michael July 23rd, having been compelled to pass by Nome because of rough weather, and as the storm continued, we were not able to land at the latter Port until the 29th. On this date our party consisting of Dr. and Mrs. Greist and child, Mr. and Mrs. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Eide and three children, Miss Jordan, and myself, were finally put on shore. Upon arriving in Nome we were confronted with a persistent rumor that the Coast Guard Cutter "BEAR" would not reach Barrow. This was apparently based upon the fact that she had failed to do so for two years, and also because of her condition, on account of which the Captain had received orders not to push her into the ice.

On August 4th the "HERMAN", Captain Peterson, left Nome for Herschell Island via Teller. I insisted that Mr. Brown and Mr. Eide go to Teller on the "HERMAN" in order to accompany the freight to Barrow. This was so that in case of failure of the "BEAR" to get through, the Carpenter and Assistant would be with the building materials and could proceed with the work. I left the choice of going on the "HERMAN" or waiting for the "BEAR" to Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Eide and Miss Jordan. Upon finding that Captain Peterson could take them all to Teller, they elected to go on the Schooner and not wait for the "BEAR". At Teller the Browns and Miss Jordan continued North on the "HERMAN" and reached Barrow about the 13th of August. The Eides took passage on the "FOX" a sailing Schooner, belonging to Liebes & Company, of San Francisco, who also operate the "HERMAN". They were at Wainwright on the 26th of August having been at sea some sixteen days, on account of head winds. They had a fair wind on the 26th and expected to reach Barrow in less than two days.

I arranged with the "JEWEL GUARD", belonging to the Methodist Mission at Nome, to transfer Dr. Greist's freight to Wales from Nome, and before my return, this freight had all been delivered. The rate was \$21.00 per ton from Nome. The lighterage at Nome was \$8.00 per ton, and the rate from Seattle to Nome was \$16.00 per ton. Adding Seattle wharfage and landing at Wales, it cost at least \$48.00 per ton to put freight in Wales by way of Nome. The rate is a little less by way of Teller.

Dr. Greist and wife left Nome on the 4th of August on the "SILVER WAVE", a small gas boat, and reached Wales some five days later after a stormy passage.

On the 12th of August I took passage on the "BEAR" supposedly for Barrow, but brought up at Post Novo Marisk, Anadyr Province, Siberia, where the "BEAR" was sent under secret orders to investigate a Bolsheviki rising last Winter, in which seventeen men were shot and an American's Store looted. We encountered a terrific storm on the way over. As all accommodations in the Captain's Cabin were taken, I had to sleep in a hammock, suspended from the under side of the upper deck, and found it a poor place in which to be sea-sick. We got away from Siberia on the 19th of August, encountering rough water on the Asiatic side, but having smooth sailing both up and back on the American Coast. The "BEAR" touched at Wales on the 23rd, and the little Diomed Island on the same day. Dr. Greist and wife were busy gett-

ing their living quarters in shape, and had all their freight on shore in very good condition. We reached Point Hope August 24th. Bishop Rowe, Reverend Mr. Thomas, Miss Ward, and Miss Gunnison, who went North on the "HERMAN" were landed here some three weeks previously. Mr. Thomas and Miss Ward were married shortly after landing by Bishop Rowe. We had on board the U. S. District Attorney from Nome, who took back with him on the "BEAR" a number of witnesses in the Rev. Hoare murder case, including the Native woman, who was with young Maguire at the time of the shooting. We took on board the small boat, Evinrude Engine, gasoline, and part of the coal left last year. August 26th we passed Wainwright and saw the "FOX" at anchor there.

On the 27th we reached Barrow and found that the ice had left that place on July 23rd and had not returned. We saw no ice and no walrus ~~neither~~ going nor coming. The "RUBY", chartered by the Hudson Bay Company, passed Barrow South bound on August 26th, having made the trip from Seattle to Bailey Island and back this far successfully. Several other schooners had already passed Barrow. Dr. Spence met us with a power boat and took us on shore. We were allowed but six hours for conference, but little could be said in that time, although we were busy every minute. In the afternoon the Church bell was rung and 150 Esquimo assembled in spite of all the excitement and confusion to receive my Greetings from the Board. The Chester Outing Company in collaboration with the Coast Guard Service, had a Moving Picture expert on board, collecting material for a film entitled "The Cruise of the "BEAR"", As the congregation filed out a picture was taken of the people, and this will appear as a part of the film, which will be released some time near the end of the year. It ought to be good advertising material for the Board, as I emphasized the fact that it was a Presbyterian Mission and the one farthest North.

The "OLGA" reached Barrow on the 25th with 134-1/3 tons of our Hospital freight and unloaded safely the next day. As I have said the "FOX" with the balance of 103 tons was at Wainwright on the 26th, and as the weather was very favorable, must have landed her cargo by the 29th or 30th, as she expected to leave for Barrow the morning of the 29th, and had a fair wind at that time.

On the 28th we were at Wainwright on the return trip. The "BEAR" took on 20 tons of Wainwright coal for steam test, and did not find it very satisfactory. This may have been due to the fact that the grate bars were not adapted

Rev. John A. Marquis.

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to this lignite coal. We reached Point Hope the 30th; Kivalina the next day, where we greeted Joe Sokonich, the cripple, and put in the following day at Kotzebue, where a boat was sent into the town. From this place we sailed directly to Nome, which we reached on September 3rd, having made a record trip into the Arctic. We were but seven days coming from Barrow to Nome, 700 miles, including all stops. On the 8th of September we sailed from Nome on the "VICTORIA", and reached Seattle on September 16th, having been absent 65 days from that port, and having covered 7290 miles by boat, taking into account the round trip from Juneau, I will have covered 9290 miles by boat when I get back. Since the 1st of January I have traveled 20,898 miles.

Sincerely yours,

James H. Condit
General Missionary.

C O P Y

Seattle, September 16, 1920.

Reverend John A. Marquis, D. D.,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

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On the 12th of August I took passage on the "BEAR" supposedly for Barrow, but brought up at Post Novo Marisk, Anadyr Province, Siberia, where the "BEAR" was sent under secret orders to investigate a Bolsheviki rising last Winter, in which seventeen men were shot and an American's Store looted. We encountered a terrific storm on the way over. As all accommodations in the Captain's Cabin were taken, I had to sleep in a hammock, ~~xxxxx~~ suspended from the under side of the upper deck, and found it a poor place in which to be sea-sick. We got away from Siberia on the 19th of August, encountering rough water on the Asiatic side, but having smooth sailing both up and back on the American Coast. The "BEAR" touched at Wales on the 23rd, and the little Diomed Island on the same day. Dr. Greist and wife were busy getting their living quarters in shape, and had all their freight on shore in very good condition. We reached Point Hope August 24th. Bishop Rowe, Reverend Mr. Thomas, Miss Ward, and Miss Gunnison, who went North on the "HERMAN" were landed here some three weeks previously. Mr. Thomas and Miss Ward were married shortly after landing by Bishop Rowe. We had on board the U. S. District Attorney from Nome, who took back with him on the "BEAR" a number of witnesses in the Rev. Hoare murder case, including the native woman, who was with young Maguire at the time of the shooting. We took on board the small boat, Evinrude Engine, gasoline, and part of the coal left last year. August 26th we passed Wainwright and saw the "FOX" at anchor there.

On the 27th we reached Barrow and found that the ice had left that place on July 23rd and had not returned. We saw no ice and no walrus going nor coming. The "RUBY", chartered by the Hudson Bay Company, passed Barrow South bound on August 26th, having made the trip from Seattle to Bailey Island and back this far successfully. Several other schooners had already passed Barrow. Dr. Spence met us with a power boat and took us on shore. We were allowed but six hours for conference, but little could be said in that time, although we were busy every minute. In the afternoon the Church bell was rung and 150 Esquimo assembled in spite of all the excitement and confusion to receive my Greetings from the Board. The Chester Quating Company in collaboration with the Coast Guard Service, had a Moving Picture expert on board, collecting material for a film entitled "The Cruise of the 'BEAR'." As the congregation filed out a picture was taken of the people, and this will appear as a part of the film, which will be released some time near the end of the year. It ought to be good advertising material for the Board, as I emphasized the fact that it was a Presbyterian Mission and the one farthest North.

The "OLGA" reached Barrow on the 25th with 134-1/2 tons of our Hospital freight and unloaded safely the next day. As I have said the "FOX" with the balance of 103 tons was at Wainwright on the 26th, and as the weather was very favorable, must have landed her cargo by the 29th or 30th, as she expected to leave for Barrow the morning of the 29th, and had a fair wind at that time.

On the 28th we were at Wainwright on the return trip. The "BEAR" took on 20 tons of Wainwright coal for steam test, and did not find it very satisfactory. This may have been due to the fact that the grate bars were not adapted to this lignite coal. We reached Point Hope the 30th; Kivalina the next day, where we greeted Joe Sokonich, the cripple, and put in the following day at Kotzebue, where a boat was sent into the town. From this place we sailed directly to Nome, which we reached on September 3rd, having made a record trip into the Arctic. We were but seven days coming from Barrow to Nome, 700 miles, including all stops. On the 8th of September we sailed from Nome on the "VICTORIA", and reached Seattle on September 16th, having been absent 65 days from that port, and having covered 7290 miles by boat. Taking into account the round trip from Juneau, I will have covered 9290 miles by boat when I get back. Since the first of January I have traveled 20,898 miles.

Sincerely yours,

(signed) JAMES E. CONDIT,

General Missionary.

C O P Y

SUBJECT: - Barrow.

Seattle, September 16, 1920.

Rev. J. A. Marquis, D. D.,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Marquis:

In addition to the "General Letter" enclosed, I offer the following particulars relative to Barrow.

1. -- Equipment.

Our equipment consists of Church and Manse. The latter is a story and one-half house, with four good rooms downstairs, and two large and one small room upstairs. One of the front rooms downstairs is used as a dispensary. The building is in good state of repair. Most of the furnishings belong to the house. Dr. Spence has given me a list of a few articles belonging to him personally, which we should take over when he quits the field. The Church is an attractive building with galleries on two sides and a seating capacity of approximately 250. It is seated with home made benches, has a good stove, organ and bell, and is well painted, and in good repair.

2. -- People and Reindeer.

There are 250 people at Barrow proper; 50 at Point Barrow, sixteen miles to the Northward; 200 along the Coast Eastward, to Demarcation Point, at the Boundary line, and 200 to the Westward, as far as and including Icy Cape. This makes a total population of approximately 700 people centering at Barrow, who are within reach of the Hospital. The reindeer herds now near Barrow, now number approximately 4000. There must be at least 200,000 domestic reindeers in Alaska at this time.

3. -- Dr. and Mrs. Spence.

In accordance with your instructions, I conveyed to Dr. and Mrs. Spence your personal greetings and assurances. The good work that Dr. Spence has done at Barrow is evident. At the ringing of the bell in the afternoon of the day we were at Barrow, 150 people gathered, although the "BEAR" and another boat were at anchor near the shore, and much excitement was resultant. Services are held twice every Sunday at Barrow and once at Point Barrow sixteen miles away. In addition two or three week day appointments are regularly maintained by Mr. and Mrs. Spence.

These good people must be relieved at the end of this year, and should have been brought out this year, but for the extraordinary demands of the building of the Hospital they would have returned to the States on the "BEAR." They and especially Dr. Spence, are in need of attention for eyes and teeth. In addition they are in a highly unbalanced nervous state. The misunderstanding between Government Teachers and our Missionaries is more prominent than ever. It has come to the stage where nothing that the teachers do seems good in our Missionaries' eyes, and vice versa. I regret to say that some of those whom we have just taken to this place are already taking sides in the quarrel, and I came away with grave apprehension as to the coming Winter. So critical did the situation seem to me, that I told Dr. Spence that if he felt that they could not endure the situation, I would take the responsibility of bringing him out with me, but he

elected to remain another year.

Two things should be sought for another year, (1) Not only the release of Dr. and Mrs. Spence, but also that of Mr. and Mrs. Gram from the Bureau of Education Work. They are also in a highly nervous state, ~~and~~ are no longer fit to do acceptable work in their place. In their present condition they will be a source of trouble to any missionary we might send. (2) The Board should at once begin a search for a strong, capable, young physician, who is married, to succeed Dr. Spence next year. Miss Jordan suggests that the Board correspond with Dr. Joshua Van Cott, Brooklyn Hospital, Brooklyn, N. Y. in regard to a young physician for this place. Of course it would be essential that he a Christian man, and willing to accept ordination.

Dr. Spence complained rather bitterly that he received no communications from the Board, excepting those that came by Summer mail. I would call attention to the fact that there are three Winter mails for Barrow, leaving Kotzebue Nov. 1st, Jan. 1st and March 1st. Mail from New York should be sent at least two months prior to these dates in order to assure their reaching Kotzebue in time. It is too late now for you to make the first mail, but may I suggest that letters and Christmas Greetings be sent to Dr. Spence and wife to catch the January mail, and that similar greetings be sent to all the workers, namely, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Eide, Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Brown, and Miss May Olive Jordan. In the same mails Dr. and Mrs. Geist should be remembered.

4. — The New Hospital.

A site for the hospital was selected not far from the Beach and near the Manse. The land at this point is favorable, because sharply sloping to the beach, thus providing basement space without much excavation. The latter is very difficult since the ground is frozen the year round. There seemed to be help available amongst the Esquimos. The larger part of the freight was already on the beach on Aug. 28th, and all things being equal, the building should be enclosed before cold weather, so that work may continue this Winter. The question has been raised, as to whether the building planned is not too large considering the cost and difficulty of heating. The attention of the Board is called to the fact that coal from Wainwright for this year costs \$50.00 per ton delivered at Barrow, and that coal from the outside costs \$84.00 per ton for delivery alone. Adding to this the first cost, will probably bring the total up to \$95.00 per ton. The Board must face the immense cost of providing fuel for the Barrow plant, now much increased by the building of the Hospital. I am sending by this mail a sample of the Wainwright coal for your inspection. After investigation on the field I am satisfied that our Mission should depend in part on this coal. It will probably be necessary to send a certain proportion of outside coal each year, especially to use in the cooking ranges. If properly handled the Wainwright coal should supply the heating in a large measure. I am of the opinion that a better rate than that paid this year, not only on coal, but also on all Barrow shipments, can be obtained by contract with the H. Liebes Company, of San Francisco, who operate the Store at Barrow. This should be investigated early. It would probably effect a large saving.

In this connection attention should be called to the exorbitant cost of Wainwright coal. The Bureau of Education Co-Operative Store charges \$20.00 per ton for this coal at the mine. The freight charges by common carrier is \$30.00 per ton, although in past years Captain Backland, who is now in Europe, carried this coal for as low as \$5.00 per ton. It is to be hoped that this freight charge will be largely reduced, when the Bureau of Education boat, now projected, is in operation, presumably next year. It would appear that the present price paid the Natives for mining of 75 cts. per sack, is out of all proportion, and should be reduced to at least 25 cts. per sack. If this coal were mined on a systematic basis and by competent workmen, it ought to be sold for at least one-half of the present price.

5. -- The Eides.

I am much afraid that trouble will follow the entrance of the Eides upon this work. This will be on account of Mr. Eide's arrogance and conceit. In Seattle and elsewhere, in spite of the definite instructions of the various members of the Board, as well as of Mr. Gould and myself, he succeeded in announcing through the Press that he was on his way to Barrow "to take charge of the Presbyterian Hospital there." He is presumptive, ignorant and lacking in judgment. If I am not mistaken, he will insist on doing the things he is not fitted for, and will neglect that for which he is only fit, namely, as General Helper, Janitor, and Man-of-all-work. I consider it unfortunate that he was brought to New York and thus made to feel that he is an essential element in the work. He was discredited as a teacher in Alaska, and is generally disliked where known. Mrs. Eide is by far the better member of the firm, and if encouraged by her husband and unhindered, will be a valuable asset.

6. -- General.

The people at Barrow, white and native, are grateful for this new Ministry. Mr. C. T. Brower, who has been so long in charge of the Trading Station at Barrow, and who has been a staunch supporter of Dr. Spence, came down on the "VICTORIA" with me, and plans to be in New York before returning next summer. I have urged him to call on you and confer in regard to the work at Barrow. While in Nome I met the famous explorer, Amundsen, who is now on his way to the North Pole, and told him of our plans, which he heartily commended. The Presbyterians have a unique privilege in serving the point "farthest North" in physical and spiritual things, and are entitled to make the most of this fact as an incentive to liberal contributions and sympathetic interest in their Missionary enterprises.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) JAMES H. CONDIT.

General Missionary.



SEATTLE'S NEWEST AND LARGEST HOTEL

HOTEL FRYE

DAN W. BASS AND P. H. WATT
MANAGERS

SEATTLE

September 16, 1920.

SUBJECT:-- Wales.

Rev. John A. Marquis, D.D.
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Marquis:-

As indicated in the "General Letter" herewith accompanying, Doctor and Mrs. Greist reached Wales the 10th of August, or near to that date. Part of their freight was at hand upon their arrival, and the balance came soon after. I reached Wales on the 23rd of August.

1. -- Dr. & Mrs. Greist.

I found that Dr. Greist was very busy with alterations of the Store building which he was making over into a residence and dispensary. He was tearing down the interior of the old Manse and using it in putting up partitions in the former Store building. This work he was conducting very effectively with the help of some of the Natives.

It was gratifying to learn both from Mr. Tait, the Bureau of Education Teacher, and from Arthur Nagazaruk, the Native Interpreter, that the Greist's were making good. This is due in part probably to the great joy of the community in again having a Missionary who in this case is also a Doctor. The experience of the Winter alone can determine whether they will be able to do the work which we expect of them. Personally I have not changed my views as to their appointment.

2. -- Equipment.

Our equipment consists of (1) The Church Building, which is a well constructed edifice, approximately 20 x 30 feet, in good condition. It is seated with home made benches; has a good stove, bell, and pulpit, and an organ which is worn out. I hope to be able to provide an organ from a Church in Kansas where my Brother-in-Law is Pastor, -- if we continue in this field. (2) The Store Building. This is a one-story building, which is being re-modeled by Dr. Greist for residence

purposes. When his plans are completed he will have three good rooms, one quite large, together with pantry, closets, sheds, etc. His thought is that this is only a temporary arrangement, as he is looking forward to some kind of a Hospital Building for next year. (3) The Old Manse, which is in an inaccessible place, and is now being wrecked. This building contains a large amount of valuable timber, which could be used in the construction of a Hospital.

There were a few articles of furniture in the old Manse, which are still available. In addition, I provided the necessary articles sufficient to furnish the residence -- a range, heater, beds, chairs, dishes, etc., etc. The house is, therefore, furnished.

3. -- The People.

There are probably 180 people at Wales and close to that number at Shismareff, 90 miles distant. In addition, there are a few white people at Tin City and at Lost River, which are tin mines and do not have much of a Winter population, if any, but which may be fairly included in the Mission field. The Natives are of a fine type, priding themselves on the fact that there is but one half-breed child in the community. They have long been noted as the Warriors of the Coast. Because of their proximity to the Diomed Islands and Siberia they give promise of serving as a connecting link in reaching the Unchristianized Natives of Siberia.

4. -- Hospital.

Dr. Greist will write you at length regarding a Hospital Building for next year. His plan is to take the Church for a Hospital and re-model it accordingly, and to erect a new building for Church purposes. This may be the wisest plan, but until sufficient reason is forthcoming, it would seem to me better to build a Hospital, if thought advisable, and leave the Church building as it is. I would not consider it advisable to erect anything but a modest building for Hospital purposes. The whole question of the future of this work is to be considered in the light of the representations of the Methodists, who were in Alaska this Summer, to which I refer in a separate letter.

Sincerely yours,

James H. Condit
General Missionary.

SEP 22 1920

FIRE PROOF

CABLE ADDRESS: TELFRYE

EUROPEAN



SEATTLE'S NEWEST AND LARGEST HOTEL

HOTEL FRYE

DAN W. BASS AND D. H. WATT
MANAGERS

SEATTLE

Sept. 17th, 1920.

Rev. John A. Marquis, D.D.,
156 - 5th Ave.,
New York.

Dear Doctor Marquis:--

You will be interested in the sad particulars of the death of Rev. Mr. Hoare at Pt. Hope, early this year. It seems that Mr. Hoare in company with Mr. J. H. Maguire left Point Hope in April, I believe it was, to go to Pt. Barrow and return. On their return, and when near to the village, Mr. Hoare left Mr. Maguire as the latter had some duty to perform in connection with the reindeer herd. Mr. Maguire reached Point Hope a few hours after Mr. Hoare. He found Mr. Hoare dead, the house barricaded and other evidence of a tragedy. He went to the door and knocked repeatedly before being recognized. Finally an Eskimo girl, who it turned out was a widow with two children, appeared in a generally tumbled condition and evidently under the influence of liquor. Mr. Maguire asked her what the matter was, and she replied "James kill Mr. Hoare".

The rest of the story I have from Mr. Maguire: He pushed past the girl into the sittingroom and found his son standing with a rifle in his hand, which he leveled on his father. Mr. Maguire told him three times to put the rifle down, and he finally did so, saying "Well, you have spilled the beans". Mr. Maguire sent for the body which his son had ordered taken over to the village. In the meantime he locked the boy up in a room upstairs. During the night the boy escaped from this room, joined the Eskimo girl who was waiting for him outside with a dog sled, and they made an attempt to escape. In the morning when Mr. Maguire discovered what had taken place he sent some Eskimo men after the run-aways with instructions to bring his son back dead or alive. They managed to get away some twenty miles when they were overtaken by the Eskimos and apprehended. They did this by slipping up to the young man and seizing him unawares. His only reply was "If I had had my gun you wouldn't have taken me." The father sent the boy to Nome where he was being held in the jail waiting for trial.

Sept. 17/ 1920

The details of the crime are most revolting. When Mr. Hoare appeared at the door of his house young Maguire stepped out with an automatic shotgun in his hand, and apparently without a word of warning shot Mr. Hoare full in the face. He then shot him a second time in the heart. The body fell across the sled and the dogs started for the place where they were usually tied. The girl was at the door by this time and handed him a rifle. He followed to where the prostrate body was lying and shot through the head time and again. He then required the school children, some of whom saw the whole affair, to take the dogs and the body over to the village. The rest of the story I have already related.

All kinds of rumors are afloat as to reputed ill-treatment of the boy by Mr. Hoare. Mr. Maguire told me that the boy and the Eskimo girl, who had been living with him in the house since the departure of Mr. Hoare, had been drinking and also that the boy had been using drugs. He had collected supplies in the house after the shooting, or before as the case may be, sufficient to last for a year, and told the officers that his first intention was to hold the place against all comers. The defense will be insanity, and while I am in no way inclined to excuse the young man, I am compelled to believe that it was the act of an insane person. The father tells me that there is insanity in the family on the mother's side.

The father and mother have the sympathy of the entire community. Mr. Maguire has given up his position and feels that his life is practically ruined. It is a sad affair.

Sincerely yours,

James H. Condit

September 27, 1920.

Rev. James H. Condit, D. D.,
Juneau, Alaska.

My dear Doctor Condit:

The Alaska correspondence all falls to my pen for a month or more. Dr. Dixon is taking his vacation, and Dr. Marquis is at his farm in Connecticut, coming only for special Committee meetings and addresses. He has been much profited by his three months' vacation, but he is by no means a well man. His heart trouble prevents him from travelling into the mountains, and he has to "walk softly".

I am enclosing letter from Dr. Bruce which will explain itself. I took it up with the Executive Council, and they instructed me to refer the letter to you and get your opinion on the matter. The question was raised whether under the rules, which limit our budget for this year to that already ordered, we could consistently pay this new salary of Mr. Wells'. Will you please let the office know, as soon as you consult with Mr. Waggoner, what your opinion is.

Rev. Frederic G. Scherer of Fairfax, Missouri, is to start tomorrow for Fairbank, via Juneau and Cordova. Mr. Marple was in the office and was fully consulted about Mr. Scherer's needs, and has advised him about the cost of travel for himself and wife, what he should take with him this winter, etc.

I also saw Mr. Gould the other day at the Board meeting and he will help Mr. Scherer at Seattle and will store such goods as are to follow him next spring.

9/27/20.

We think that you will find in Scherer a choice man, and that he will repeat there the excellent work which he has done elsewhere. He and his wife are of middle age, have no children, are both strong and active and express their determination to stay in Alaska in the Mission work for the rest of their lives.

We have been in considerable doubt and perplexity about Mr. Nickerson. Under date of August 2nd, he wrote to Dr. Dixon. I send you a copy of his letter. Dr. Dixon did not reply, awaiting further word from him and from you. We have been ready at any time the last two months to commission Mr. Nickerson and provide him with funds to go to Cordova, but you were away and of course could not communicate with us, and Mr. Nickerson has not done so. We hope that the matter will be adjusted very soon and that he will go to Cordova at an early date.

When we brought Mr. Scherer's name up before the Board last Thursday, we could have had Mr. Nickerson commissioned and supplied with funds at the same time, had we known certainly that he was ready to go and the amount that he would need.

I had a visit with Dr. W. H. Chase of Cordova a week ago. He came East on account of the illness of his father and spent some days in New York. He tells me that although the Sunday School and prayer meeting have been kept up since Mr. Schriber left, the Mission is in a rather bad way. The Trustees of our Church rented the Manse to a couple of young men. Recently these young men were arrested for carrying on a bootlegging business and a lot of liquor was found in the Presbyterian Manse. Also, there was a young woman arrested there with them, and the trio are in jail, awaiting trial on several charges. Of course, this has brought upon the Manse a great deal of ridicule.

Rev. James H. Condit

-3-

9/27/20.

Please let me know about Mr. Nickerson, and we will hasten up his appointment and speed him on his way.

Early in the summer, I sent to the Herald and Presbyter and to the Continent at the same time, a call for four Alaskan missionaries, for Cordova, Fairbanks, Wrangell, and Hydaburg. The Herald and Presbyter published the article promptly, and we got some twenty responses to that meeting. The Continent held up the article for nearly two months, and then published it. The consequence is that we have lately had another set of applications for places in Alaska.

Unfortunately, nearly all of those who have applied for positions chose Cordova or Fairbanks, attracted no doubt by the larger salary and by the fact that these are churches to the whites. We took your advice in sending Mr. Nickerson to Cordova after Dr. Winterberger declined the call there. Then we asked Mr. Fiscus (whom Dr. Marquis knew), and who had applied to go to the Cordova church, to consider the call to Fairbanks; but he unexpectedly declined, fearing the "severer climate of the interior". Mr. Scherer was our next choice for Fairbanks, and he has gone to that place.

We have had much difficulty in selecting men for Wrangell and Hydaburg. We have investigated carefully all the names sent us, and I shall send you soon a list of the names that seemed most promising. Some of those whom we were ready to commission had grown weary of the delay, and had accepted calls to other places. If you have anybody in view for either of these points, please let us know at once that we may investigate.

Rev. James A. Gondit

-4-

9/27/20.

Mr. Marple came to New York and went down with me to Fair Haven. His wife also paid us a visit. Dr. Dixon, Mr. Banks and I had a two days' conference with Mr. Marple. He spent yesterday at Youngstown with Dr. Hudnut of the First Church. This Church has taken up Mr. Marple and Hankridge ^{Anchor} as their missionary pastor ^{and field} and will be responsible for whatever is needed there. Mr. Marple goes right on to Alaska, and I presume will see you almost as soon as you see this letter. It is likely that he and Mr. Scherer will go on the same boat.

I wish personally to congratulate you with all my heart on the striking success of your expedition to Point Barrow. We have not received your report as yet, but the fact that you conducted the great expedition through and landed all the missionaries, goods and materials, is a great feather in your cap and deserving of the highest praise.

Until the middle of August, I still hoped to make a partial survey of Alaska missionary territory this fall, but the total collapse of the Interchurch movement, and then the sad downfall of Mr. Allaben, compelled us to postpone any such effort until next spring. I hope to start very early in the spring on my original plan, which will take a year's travel. The Woman's Board, the Home Missions Council, and our own Board -- as well as private parties -- are considering ways and means.

I have not taken any vacation this summer, but have stayed by the office during the absence of the other officers.

The Baptists sent one of their experienced men to the Prince William's Sound country, to make a full report on the natives of the field

Rev. James A. Condit

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9/27/20/

in the region assumed by the Baptist Church. He obtained a lot at Seldovia, and the

Baptists are going right ahead to erect a mission, hospital, and supplementary school at that point, also a branch mission at Kenai.

Dr. Barnes, the Baptist Secretary, is very anxious to have a good "white" church in that region. It is probable that they will go to Portage Bay as soon as the Government commences work there. Secretary Daniels approved Portage Bay as the harbor where the U. S. squadron would receive its coal, and he is urging that the tunnel be commenced at once. This will leave Seward out in the cold, and will cause a brisk boom at Portage Bay.

With warm regards to Mrs. Condit, I am as always

Your friend,

(J. Hall Young)

CC

3 Enclosures

October 1, 1920.

Rev. J. H. Condit, D. D.,
Juneau,
Alaska.

Dear Dr. Condit:

I want first of all to thank you for your very clear and illuminating report on your trip to Alaska. I trust you got a lot of photographs from which we can make slides, particularly of Pt. Barrow and the landscape around where the hospital will be located. If you have we shall be very glad to have use of them.

I will not take up with you in this letter any of the points you raised except the one about our entering Cape Prince of Wales. The Methodist brethren and sisters are laboring under a misapprehension which there is really no excuse for their cherishing. We did not take Cape Prince of Wales over from the Congregational Church. The Congregationalists notified the Home Missions Council, which is the interdenominational body on Home Missions, that they were no longer able to carry on the work at Wales and asked that some organization be found to do it. The secretary of the Home Missions Council submitted it to his executive committee, of which the secretary of the Methodist Board is a member, and that committee voted unanimously to ask our Board to do it, which we, after some hesitation, agreed to do. This is the first point to be kept in mind.

Second: When I returned from Alaska I presented the old allocation of territory to the various denominations with some changes, which were unanimously approved. In this allocation of denominational responsibility I stated exactly the facts in regard to Wales, saying to the interdenominational body that if the Congregationalists could not continue to work there some other body ought to be found to do it. The Congregationalists in the course of time notified the Council that they could not do it and the Council, with the vote of the Methodist brethren present, asked our Board to do it. Will you please make this clear to Mr. McQueen.

Having done this I am ready to take up quite sympathetically the turning over of the work at Wales to the Methodists, although our Board's plan in accepting this work was to have four stations among the Eskimos and five men to manage them, which would leave one of them in this country on furlough every fifth year. The stations I had thought of were Nunivak Island and Nushagak region, St. Lawrence Island, Wales and Pt. Barrow. This would give us a chain of stations among the Eskimos and enable us to manage them with some sort of articulation. The Pribilof Islands were also assigned to us by the Home Missions Council, but I urged that they be turned over to the Methodists on account of their work at Unalaska. The Council thereupon asked the Methodist Board to do this, but at the last account no reply had been received.

I might say to you personally and confidentially that the Methodist secretaries did not seem anxious to increase their responsibility in Alaska. I

urged in my report that they strengthen their work at Nome.

We are already making inquiry for a young doctor and his wife to relieve Dr. Spence.

I am enclosing copy of a letter from Dr. Geist, the spirit of which I like very much. If he can make good there with all of his handicaps, it would be worth while standing behind him. The way his appointment turned out was the greatest disappointment and shock I have had since coming to the Board.

Whenever anything occurs to you with reference to the work in Alaska, and especially your trip to Pt. Barrow, you think would be of use to us, please write it down and send it. We want to get out a special article on Pt. Barrow and its hospital and try to get it into the monthly magazines if possible, so any information you can give us would be gratefully received. In the meantime take up with Mr. McQueen the terms on which they would be willing to undertake to relieve us of the work at Wales.

I also will take up with the Woman's Board the matter of St. Lawrence Island. We have not yet made settlement with the Congregationalists in regard to the property they have at Wales. I should like your judgment as to its value.

I feel profoundly sorry for the elder McGaire. I must write him a note of sympathy.

The Board will not be able to use the curios of the old chief Pingosuguruk.

I am only coming to the office as yet a day or two out of each week. Sometime I will want to take up all of the points raised in your letter and discuss them in full. Let me say now that I am thinking personally very seriously of recommending to the Board a change in your relationship with the work in Alaska. I think the office of Superintendent ought to be created, with full power, in order that the Superintendent may not be held up awaiting instructions from the Board in the thousand and one things that have to be dealt with. Mr. Gould is very strongly of the opinion, and I agree with him, that your powers ought to be enlarged and that you ought to be given more authority. Please write me your own ideas.

Sincerely and truly yours,

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.

HEADQUARTERS
NO. 156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

TERRITORY OF ALASKA
JAMES H. CONDIT, D.D., GENERAL MISSIONARY
JUNEAU, ALASKA

October 14, 1920

Rev. J.A. Marquis, D.D.,
156 5th Avenue,
New York.

Dear Dr. Marquis:

replying to your suggestion of the 1st inst that it might be advisable to enlarge the scope of my work and asking for an expression on my part, would say, that I am leaving early in the morning on the mission boat Lois for Metlahatla and other points in S.E. Alaska with the intention of being absent two weeks and that I have not the time now to go as fully into the matter as I would like.

In brief I believe that it would be in the interest of the cause to have a Superintendent with authority to act in all ordinary matters. I have not thought the matter out sufficiently to express a definite scheme and scope. I would be glad to know what in your judgement should constitute the peculiar duties of a Superintendent as distinguished from the functions now pertaining to the General Missionary, and what authority should rest in him.

I would suppose that he should investigate and initiate all new work, personally investigate candidates for work in the Territory, represent the Board in conference with other superintendents, pass upon questions of administration, receive reports from missionaries, pass upon vouchers and have oversight of expenditures, have the care of property and negotiate purchase and sale of same, represent the Board at meetings of the Presbytery, etc., etc. This is a hasty outline of that which comes to mind now. As I say I would like to have your opinion as to the peculiar duties which would come to a Superintendent.

It seems to me now that in serving in this capacity I would be at an advantage in being in Seattle. From that point I could more easily reach the Board rooms and candidates for work in Alaska, could more readily serve in forwarding and purchasing supplies and could reach the remote northern places more easily than from Juneau. I would have to arrange my plans so as to cover the field once a year in itineration. In view of the stressing of Takimo work at this time the Seattle office would be advisable, also.

It also seems to me now that it would be advisable to have a Missionary at large appointed as assistant to the Superintendent, on the field whose duty it should be to supply vacancies and do evangelistic work under the direction of the Superintendent. I have thought of Mr. Warple, who recently went to Anchorage, for this place and would suggest that if he appeals to you as a proper man for the office it would be well to have him nominated by the Presbytery of Yukon at its spring meeting for this work.

Dr. Marquis

-2-

October 14, 1920

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.HEADQUARTERS
NO. 156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORKTERRITORY OF ALASKA
JAMES H. CONDIT, D.D., GENERAL MISSIONARY
JUNEAU, ALASKA

It is also to be considered that in case it seemed advisable to conduct the work from Seattle a house and office for the Superintendent would have to be provided and that these would add probably \$500 per year to the expense in connection with the new arrangement. My thought is that it would not be necessary to have a n office separate from my residence as my work would be largely correspondence and would have no local bearing beyond the receiving and forwarding missionaries which could be as well done from a residence office.

This is only a hasty suggestion but is in the main my thought on the matter. Should it be thought advisable to make the change I would suggest that it be determined as soon as convenient in order that plans may be laid accordingly and in the mean time I will be glad to have your suggestions as I have indicated.

Sincerely yours,

James H. Condit

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.HEADQUARTERS
NO 156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORKTERRITORY OF ALASKA
JAMES H. CONDIT, D.D., GENERAL MISSIONARY
JUNEAU, ALASKAPersonal

October 15, 1920

Rev. John A. Marquis, D.D.,
156 5th Avenue,
New York.

Dear Dr. Marquis:

I notice in the Continent of September 30th, under "missionary items" reference to "Mr. and Mrs. Eide, who are to direct the erection of the hospital" at Barrow.

It is advisable, I think, to correct any impression that Eide is more than a helper at Barrow. It is my opinion that he will be a trouble maker at Barrow and that the force there will earnestly desire before the year is up that he be removed. I studied him thoroughly and know him to be an ignorant, conceited, presumptuous ~~ignorant~~ *feeler* with very little religion in him. He is discredited in Bureau of education circles--would have been killed at Little Diomede Island for desecrating native graves but for the influence of his wife--and has no standing at Nome or any where else where he is known. On my way back from Barrow I learned from a curie dealer at Seattle that Eide had approached him on the subject of dealing with him in curies ivory, etc. He represented himself to this curie man as he did to every one along the way as being in charge of the Barrow mission and hospital. At Nome I had to follow an article inspired by him in the local paper with an explanation putting him in his right place. I have no confidence whatever in him and am strongly of the opinion that he will do us more harm than good at Barrow.

As to his wife it is very different. She is consecrated and has abundant good sense and if alone would make a valuable worker. One reason why I dislike Eide is that he is ashamed of his Eskimo wife. He is unkind to her and to his children. I am exceedingly sorry that he is where he is.

Eide wants to preach, direct the hospital building, and generally exploit his conceited over appreciation of himself. His trip to New York was an unfortunate thing in that it gave him the impression that he is really a valuable factor in the Barrow work which he is not. We need to be on our guard in this matter for he might prove to be a most undesirable adjunct of our mission work and it should be understood in all publicity matter that he is simply a general helper to the force there and that is all that he is fit for. In this judgement I am backed up by Mr. Gould and the rest of the Barrow party.

Sincerely yours,

James H. Condit.

October 25, 1920.

Rev. James H. Condit, D. D.,
Juneau, Alaska.

My Dear Dr. Condit:-

Yours of October 13th is just at hand and I have taken it up with Dr. Dixon who is back at his desk.

First, I will take up the matter of Well's salary with Mr. Banks and the Council and let you know the result. Second, Nickerson - We will send a telegram to Mr. Nickerson as you advise, urging him to go at once to Cordova. Dr. Dixon says that he is firmly of the conviction that he sent Mr. Nickerson word to go to Cordova. However, there is no copy of such a letter from Dr. Dixon in our files and he is not entirely certain about it. We will get in touch with Mr. Nickerson at once.

A letter this morning from Dr. Chase says that there is no Protestant Minister at Cordova at all and that the Catholics "have things their own way".

Third, Hydabury and Wrangell. We have had so many disappointments in our correspondence with ministers looking forward to supplying these two missions that it is rather discouraging. We have adopted the ruling that it is better to have some delay in procuring a man for these two places rather than to risk getting the wrong man. However, we will make all haste possible. If, in the meantime, you get in touch with anybody which you think suitable, let us know.

In regard to Mr. Allaben, I am glad to report that the situation does not seem to be as bad now as it did a month or two ago.

Mr. Allaben was negotiating for the joint survey for the Indian Schools under the Women's Board and our neglected territory. Our Board had accepted my proposition for a four month's survey beginning Sept. 1st on condition that the Women's Board should share the expenses. Mr. Allaben was favorable to the plan, and it seemed about to be consummated when suddenly the New York papers came out with the news that Mrs. Allaben had sued her husband for divorce naming two women as correspondents, and that she had taken measures to attach his salary for temporary maintenance and to enjoin him from the use of a fund which seemed to be in dispute between them.

The news came as a thunderclap to us all for both the officers of the Women's Board and we who are in this office had the utmost faith in Mr. Allaben. The Women and some of us, including myself, wrote at once to Mr. Allaben expressing our faith in him and our determination to stand by him. He did not reply to any of our letters, but resigned his office and disappeared from our ken. Mr. McMillan, the Treasurer of the Women's Board, who had offered Mr. Allaben a home, was very much disturbed from the fact that there were accounts of Mr. Allaben's with the Board unsettled, and the news came that Allaben had changed his name and gone to some unknown part. Within the last two or three weeks, however, Mr. Allaben has written us acknowledging our letters and affirming his innocence of all charges, and he disappeared as he did to get out of the way, as Mrs. Allaben had attached his person and he faced the possibility of serving a term in jail. Mr. McMillan considers that Mr. Allaben has proved that his wife's action was simply the hasty and ill-considered action of a jealous woman and the women named as correspondents have proved their innocence. However, Allaben is in Canada and is keeping out of the way at present, and will probably not return to the United States.

We all rejoice at this new aspect of the case, although this is bad enough. However, my revised expedition was postponed and cannot be taken until next Spring.

I am preparing for the Board a suggested plan for my future movements and work, a copy of which I will send you when I have it completed.

I received from Dr. Wood of the Episcopal Board the news of Archdeacon Stucks' death. I at once wrote a letter of appreciation of the splendid character of the Archdeacon and have received a notification to come "with my robes" to a great memorial service which is to be held at the Cathedral of St. John The Divine next Sunday, October 31st.

We are glad to have you within touch again. Things in Alaskan work run much more smoothly when you are present.

Most cordially yours,



ET.

October 29, 1920.

Rev. James H. Condit, D. D.,
Juneau,
Alaska.

Dear Dr. Condit:

Your letter has just come and I have gone over its points carefully. Let me take them up in order.

1. Regarding the erection of the office of Superintendent of Alaskan Missions, the reason I have had it in mind is that I feel you ought to be in possession of more power with reference to those missions than the office of general missionary gives you. The duties suggested by you are those I have had in mind. You ought to make the budget for Alaska, assist in selecting men and be the channel through which the Board will carry on its entire operations in the territory.

I am not yet able to make up my mind in regard to the wisdom of your removing to Seattle. I need not go into reasons for this just yet. One of them is that a superintendent ought to be in very close touch with the evangelistic work of the church in the territory as well as with its administration. In addition to this I fear that your removal from the territory would give occasion to the brethren who want to supplant you there to create opposition. However, this need not be settled now.

I do not think it is likely that the Board will be in a position for some years to grant an assistant under whatever name he may be desired. There are only about 40,000 people in Alaska, and to provide an assistant superintendent there when the superintendents of the 2,000,000 Mexicans in this country, 350,000 Indians, 2,500,000 Cubans, 1,500,000 Porto Ricans, 3,500,000 Jews and 14,000,000 immigrants have no assistants, would get us into trouble all round. When you get back from your trip write me in detail your idea about the matter. The Board will not need to take action on it until April.

2. In regard to Eide and Dr. Spence: I have shared your fears ever since Eide was here and bore down on him heavily the fact that he was subject to the order of Dr. Spence in every particular. After consultation with Dr. Dixon we agreed that it might be a good thing to write him a letter, taking the Continent notice as a text, and remind him that he is not the manager of the hospital, but simply a helper under the direction of Dr. Spence, and send Dr. Spence a copy of it. I enclose such a letter and if you think it wise to send it please put it in the mail. My doubt about sending it is due to your report of Dr. Spence's nervous condition. Highly nervous people may fly off the handle and do unwise things that they would like to undo later. However, if you feel that the enclosed letter will do good send it on.

3. In regard to the situation at Cape Prince of Wales, whilst we are

ready to discuss the transfer of it with the Methodists, they will have to present a pretty clear case before we would be ready to give it up in view of our plan of establishing four missions among the Eskimos with five men to manage them. If the Methodists want another station there are plenty of openings for them, and, according to the plan adopted by the Home Missions Council after my return a year ago the Methodists were specifically asked to undertake the work on the Pribilof Islands. This was on account of their work on the Aleutian Islands not far away. The Congregationalists have as yet presented no claim to us for payment for the property there.

Your pictures have not yet come but will doubtless be here in due time.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely yours,

JAM:ES

October 29, 1920.

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Juneau,
Alaska.

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Your pictures have not yet come but will doubtless be here in due time.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely yours,

JAM:ES

November 5, 1920.

Rev. James H. Condit, D.D.,

Juneau, Alaska.

My dear Dr. Condit:-

During my absence from the Board rooms, Dr. Young wrote you stating that a letter from Mr. Bruce had been received in which he asked for the appointment of Mr. William Wells of Sitka to take care of the native work at Haines, and that \$75.00 per month be granted to him for this service, as well as the cost of his transportation. Dr. Marquis asked Dr. Young to write to you in regard to the matter, which he did under date of September the twenty-seventh, asking you for your judgment. Our financial outlook grows darker and darker and I think there will be difficulty in securing a grant for Mr. Wells unless it is absolutely necessary. Dr. Bruce also says that the Committee thinks it would be wise to continue Mr. Wells' services at Kluckwan until the end of the church year.

May we hear from you soon in regard to this matter, and believe me to be,

Cordially yours,

JD/I.

NOV 24 1920

PRESBYTERY OF YUKON
JAMES H. CONDIT
STATED CLERKTHE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U.S. A.HEADQUARTERS
NO. 156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORKTERRITORY OF ALASKA
JAMES H. CONDIT, D.D., GENERAL MISSIONARY
JUNEAU, ALASKA

November 10, 1920

Rev. J.A. Marquis, D.D.,
156 5th Avenue, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Marquis:

Two items of recent information have caused me much worry.

I have just received a letter from Mr. Jean Dupertuis, Superintendent of Bureau of Education work for the northern district, in which he says:

"This is only a few lines to tell you that I have seen Captain Allen of the Olga and he informs me that he was unable to take any coal to Barrow due to engine trouble. All the coal that went up this year besides the few tons that we took at Pt. Hope is seventy tons which the Fox took up. I asked Captain Allen if this coal was for the Mission or the Bureau, but he did not know. They probably will have to divide it among themselves, and I hope they can do it peaceably!"

The other item comes from Dr. Greist, at Wales, under date October 11, 1920.

"Capt. Allen tells me that he saw Miss Jordan in Teller the other day, that she came out on next boat after landing at Point Barrow, and that she told him she was bound for Seattle. He secured no particulars. He also told me that Rev. Dr. Spence and wife came out on same boat and will go to states."

The failure of the Olga and Capt. Allen to take the 125 tons of coal from Wainwright to Barrow is certainly most unfortunate. I do not have the exact amount of coal which Mr. Gould shipped from Seattle for our mission but am under the impression that a large part of the "seventy tons" is our coal. Neither mission nor school people will suffer but it is a very serious affair when a carrier agrees to take coal to Barrow and fails to do so. No Wainwright coal for either school or mission has been delivered, apparently.

I can not imagine why Miss Jordan has left Barrow. When I saw her there she seemed to be pleased with the outlook and content to stay. I suspend judgement waiting explanation and the latter should be eminently convincing. I am not so much surprised regarding Dr. and Mrs. Spence, since in their nervous condition it is not surprising that they should finally decide that the strain was too great.

November 10,1920

While the absence of these people will seriously cripple our work at Barrow it will not be as serious as if Mr. and Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Eide were not there. Mrs. Eide has had some experience as a nurse and the medical supplies will be available. Mr. and Mrs. Brown will undoubtedly look after religious services as far as they can and I suppose that Mr. and Mrs. Cram will assist them.

It is time now to be on the look out for a medical missionary for next year as also a nurse. Early this winter, too, the matter of getting fuel to Barrow for next year should be taken up. I believe that by getting in touch with the Liebes Co., and Captain Peterson, at San Francisco, we can arrange to have our coal and supplies taken directly from San Francisco to Barrow. If so the saving will be very great.

The other alternative is the "Boxer", Bureau of Education boat, which is supposed to be in commission for next year. There is considerable uncertainty as to the latter being available and in so far as Barrow is concerned I believe it the part of wisdom to arrange, if possible, for the Hermann and Capt. Peterson to handle our next year's Barrow freight.

It is time now to begin correspondence regarding next year's freight shipments and if you approve I will begin correspondence with firms doing business in Arctic waters.

Sincerely yours,

James H. Condit

November 11, 1920.

Rev. James H. Condit, D. D.,
Juneau,
Alaska.

Dear Dr. Condit:

I enclose copies of letters just received in regard to Point Barrow. It is the worst mess ever. Would you please let me have your advice on the whole matter? Mr. Gould, as you will see, is of the opinion that the mission is much better off with Dr. Spence and Miss Jordan out of it than in it. I infer that you do not agree with him in regard to Dr. Spence.

I am inexpressibly disappointed in Miss Jordan. Her recommendations were high and she seemed to have the missionary spirit, but only service on the field is decisive.

It seems to me that the only thing for us to do is to go ahead and get a successor for Dr. Spence, to go up just as soon as navigation opens in the summer time. I would like very much to have a young man and his wife who have the proper missionary spirit. We are on the hunt here and if you will also keep your ear to the ground we may get the right kind of a man.

Dr. Greist seems to be getting along at Wales very well so far as we can judge by his letters. On the assumption that you may not be busy in your long winter evenings I am enclosing you copy of a letter which Dr. Young has sent to myself and all the members of the Board. I shall be glad to have your reaction on it when you have gotten through with it.

Dr. Benjamin L. Myers was in to see us a couple of days ago and left with us some documents in regard to the Metlakatla situation, copies of which I enclose. I fear very much from what the Doctor states that the organization of the Presbyterian Church on the Island has created bitterness and dissension among the natives. I hope whatever you can do and the Presbytery can do to allay the dissension there will be done. I can only repeat what I wrote you before that it seems to us a crime for two churches to be among that little group of people. It looks now as though there were going to be a lawsuit in regard to the possession of the property.

I do not believe in the existing situation that the Presbyterian element is justified in forcibly seizing the Duncan church. However, you will know how to appraise the situation, after receiving the enclosures, better than I can. Dr. Myers was rather severe on you and Edward Marsden, charging that you had aided and abetted the defection on the Island. I contested this with him and told him that your letters to the Board indicated that you had supported the Board's policy of not organizing there until the Duncan will situation was cleared. He read to me a paragraph out of a letter you had written to somebody -- he refused to state to whom-- in 1917, in which you declared that you had changed your mind and that you were going to work for the organization of the Presbyterian

J.H.C. - 2 -

Church at Metlakatla on the ground that under Father Duncan's regime those people were not getting the Gospel. I told him that I could not accept the paragraph as evidence at all on account of the fact that he refused to give me the name of the party to whom he wrote this or let me see the letter. However, he went away simply leaving the documents in our hands and in good humour.

If you survive reading all these numerous enclosures I would like to have your opinion on them.

With warm regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

JAM:ES

NOV 24 1920

PRESBYTERY OF YUKON
JAMES H. CONDIT
STATED CLERKTHE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.HEADQUARTERS
NO. 156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORKTERRITORY OF ALASKA
JAMES H. CONDIT, D. D., GENERAL MISSIONARY
JUNEAU, ALASKA

November 11, 1920

Rev. J.A. Marquis, D.D.,
156 5th Avenue,
New York.

Dear Dr. Marquis:

Your letter of the 29th of October in regard to the office of Superintendent of Alaska Missions is before me.

In view of the limited time at my disposal before I leave for another visit of inspection at Sitka I will not attempt to enter into any detail now as to the matter. I will write you again regarding this in full.

Just now there are two things to say:

First, unless an assistant, or Pastor at Large, or some other arrangement were made under whatever name it might be, I would not expect to have my office elsewhere than here. In fact there have been serious obstacles in the way of my removing to Seattle in my mind ever since it was suggested by Mr. Gould. It may be taken for granted, therefore, under your intimation that no such assistant is to be allowed, that I will remain here in Juneau as headquarters. I feel quite sure that the Presbytery, however, is contemplating renewing its recommendation for a Pastor-at-Large. That will be a matter for the Board to consider, I presume, under the showing which you have made to me, viz, the inadvisability of granting such an officer in the face of the fact that other larger interests have no such provision.

Second:-

In my communication to the Home Mission Committee of the Presbytery as to the relations of the General Missionary and the Home Mission Committee, a copy of which I sent to each member of the Presbytery, I stipulated four functions as pertaining to my office, viz.,

- (1) Care and control, as trustee, of the Board's property, and legal power of attorney in buying and selling.
- (2) Supervision of grants with responsibility for expenditure of same.
- (3) Initiation of new work, including survey of new territory.
- (4) The supervision of existing work.

In the reply which I received from the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Bruce, the 3d and 4th points were questioned. In my future handling of the matter I would like to have your judgement as to my position on these last two points.

Sincerely yours,

James H. Condit

DEC 6 - 1920 *Adm 12/8/20*
PRESBYTERY OF ALASKA

PRESBYTERY OF YUKON
JAMES H. CONDIT
STATED CLERK

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.

Re: 11/15/20
HEADQUARTERS
NO. 156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

TERRITORY OF ALASKA
JAMES H. CONDIT, D. D., GENERAL MISSIONARY
JUNEAU, ALASKA

November 15, 1920

Rev. John Dixon, D.D.,
156 5th Avenue, New York.

Dear Dr. Dixon:

Rev. David Waggoner, Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Alaska, tells me that at the recent meeting of the Synod of Washington he met Rev. Charles H. Bierkemper, of Elk River, Idaho, who expressed a desire to take up mission work in Alaska and also stated that he had made application for work to the Board.

Inasmuch as he does not appear in any correspondence from the Board as a possibility for Alaska I am led to ask whether he has been investigated by ~~the~~ Board and if so whether it has been thought that he is not available for our work.

Matlakatta Our Wrangell and Hydaburg fields are desperately in need of men. I trust that every effort may be made at once to secure men for these vacancies. In a recent visit to Hydaburg in company with members of the Presbytery of Alaska and on our return from ~~Hydaburg~~ a most interesting meeting was held on the Sunday that we were there. At the communion service which we held 26 children were presented for baptism, there were renewals of pledges to fidelity on the part of both people and officers and arrangements were made for greater activity along the line of such services as may be conducted by the people and their temporary leader, George Haldane, who is at this time receiving a salary of \$75 per month from the Board and who is one of the elders of the church. Now that it is definitely determined that Mr. Howe is not to return to Alaska it is most important that a man be sent soon to occupy this important field at the present critical period of its history.

Wrangell has now been vacant for two years, almost. The field has already suffered much from the vacancy and demands imperatively a man to grapple with the double problem of white and native needs there.

Surely there must be suitable men somewhere who are ready to enter these fields which are so in need of missionaries.

Sincerely yours,

James H. Condit

3.8 - 1920 Ack. 12/8/20 12/17/20

PRESBYTERY OF ALASKA

PRESBYTERY OF YUKON
JAMES H. CONDIT
STATED CLERK

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.

HEADQUARTERS
NO. 156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

TERRITORY OF ALASKA
JAMES H. CONDIT, D. D., GENERAL MISSIONARY
JUNEAU, ALASKA

November 15, 1920

Rev. John Dixon, D.D.,
156 5th Avenue, New York.

Dear Dr. Dixon:

Upon my return to Juneau I find that the Home Mission Committee of the Alaska Presbytery have held up the sale of the hull of the boat which for the past five years has been housed at Kake waiting for an engine. You will remember that this hull was ordered sold when it was found impossible to provide the money for the engine in this year's budget. I so instructed Mr. Fitzgerald, our missionary at Kake, but he has been awaiting the outcome of the Home Missionary Committee's protest to the sale, which I understand was sent in to the Board. I understand that in this protest the need for a boat is again urged upon the Board.

Recently a called meeting of the Presbytery was held at Metlakatla to consider the organization of a church at that place. In connection with this business the boat matter came up and I was asked to write the Board and determine whether at this time, from the salvage from unused appropriations at Klukwan, Hydaburg, Wrangell, etc., etc., the money necessary for the purchase of this engine could be provided. In accord with the request of Presbytery I am herewith putting the matter before you.

I may add that I have recently visited Kake and have had a conference with Mr. Fitzgerald relative to the whole boat situation. And I may say that taking all things into consideration I am at present not so decided in my former opinion that it is necessary that a boat of the type proposed be furnished at Kake. It is my judgement that Mr. Fitzgerald himself would be reconciled to the idea of doing the work which is possible without a boat and would in a measure be relieved to know that the burden of the care and operation of such a boat was not to be imposed upon him. I will not here take the time to give the detailed facts establishing this opinion.

Will you kindly write me as to the inquiry of the Presbytery regarding the possibility of providing for this engine as above and if that be found impossible will you confirm your former instruction that I proceed to sell the hull.

I am at Sitka at present but will return to Juneau next week.

Sincerely,

James H. Condit

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.

HEADQUARTERS
NO. 156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

TERRITORY OF ALASKA
JAMES H. CONDIT, D. D., GENERAL MISSIONARY
JUNEAU, ALASKA

November 27, 1920

Rev. John Dixon, D.D.,
156 5th Avenue,
New York.

My dear Dr. Dixon:

I have before me your letter of November 5th with respect to my requisition of October 14, 1920 for the following "manse furnishings" for General Missionary's house:-

Electric Heater	\$30.75	
Linoleum	42.55	
Wiring House	51.75	
Total		\$125.05

My conscience very promptly tells me that you are right in the suggestion that before making any purchases the approval of the Board should have been obtained. I was presuming too much upon the action of the Board in adopting the policy of furnishing the permanent articles and not considering the necessity of presenting individual cases.

While the plan for furnishing manses, which I prepared, does not mention linoleum, action was taken by the Presbytery of Alaska asking that it be included as one of the "permanent" articles and this request was sent in to the Board along with the report of the Home Mission Committee this last spring. It would really seem to me that it would only be right to include it in manse furnishings as once laid it cannot be moved excepting at loss.

You are right in the assumption that the house was heated with coal prior to installation of electric wiring. We still use coal for our main heating stove. The heater I purchased for my office use.

The main reason for wiring the house was to provide for an electric range in the kitchen. The range I purchased myself. Coal may drop below the present price of \$20 per ton, in time, but it has been no lower than \$14 per ton for several years and prior to the war. At the \$14 rate electricity is much cheaper at the 2¢ rate.

While I recognize the fact that I will personally be the gainer by the wiring expense it is also true that the value of the property is enhanced by the fact that it is wired for electric service.

But, as confessed, I should have put this before you at the other end of the procession.

Sincerely yours,

James H. Condit

PLEASE RETURN TO
JAMES H. CONDIT
JUNEAU, ALASKA.

Wainwright, Alaska, Nov. 28, 1935.

Rev. J. H. Condit,
Juneau, Alaska.

My dear Mr. Condit;

It was with great regret that I read your letter to Louis P. Paul declining to attend the Convention of the Alaska Native Brotherhood because you had already engaged yourself to be in another part of the territory. The letter was so cleverly worded that I felt very sorry that you could not be with your family owing to your devotion to the work of the Church of Christ. I knew then that you could not possibly accede to the plea of Mrs. William Tamaree who asked you so earnestly to provide this church with an ordained Presbyterian minister as we had been without a minister for more than a year. She also told you that since the convention would be here ALL the representative Natives of Southeastern Alaska would be here. But of course you had to be in "another part of the Territory". Little did I think that you meant that you would be right at home, and when others said that you were neglecting this field, I supported you by telling them that you were not away from home on a "joy-ride" but at work.

I now see from the Alaska Daily Capital of Nov. 24th last page that you were one of THREE ministers carrying on one service in one church at one time. Two Presbyterian ministers and a Methodist preacher preaching one sermon. I wonder if your conscience troubled you when you thought of us here trying to hold a service WITHOUT a minister of any denomination, with all the progressive Natives of Southeastern Alaska in attendance wondering ^{where} our supervising Pastor was when he might have been preaching to the selected delegates of thousands of Natives. To reach these same people, you would have had to travel nearly a thousand miles. They came to your very doors and asked you to preach to them; but you went to a Methodist Church and helped two other preachers to conduct ONE service. But a Deborah and a Barak served as of old, and we held a thanksgiving service in a Presbyterian Church to the satisfaction of all. I hope however that these visitors among whom the Episcopal Church is working with skill and intelligence, will not find out that our supervising missionary who could not come to them because he had to be "in another part of the Territory", was helping a Methodist minister helping another Presbyterian missionary preach a sermon in a Methodist church.

In concluding I wish to say that I intend to send a copy of the Invitation of the Brotherhood ~~to you~~, also a copy of your reply containing your explanation, also a copy of that pleading letter from Mrs. Matilda Paul Tamaree, also the newspaper clipping showing your devotion to duty toward the Methodists, and also a copy of this letter, all to the Board. They should know how thankful you are of Methodists that you must supply them with two Presbyterian missionaries to help the Methodist preacher, while a Presbyterian Church WITHOUT a minister for over ONE year and in which fifty delegates from all the towns of Southeastern Alaska had come must needs be without any minister. They may still support you and even defend you. But if they do, they should no longer wonder why it is that the Episcopal church is so rapidly taking the place of influence heretofore held by the Presbyterian Church. If the Church were on an efficiency basis as a business house must be; if this were a business proposition, I would say that the difference between the two churches is success and failure; Bishop Ross, vs J. H. Condit, D.D. Bishop Ross is not preaching for Methodists; three in one Methodist church builds up the Presbyterian church wonderfully.

Yours very truly,

William L. Paul

DEC 13 1920

Copy

December 1, 1920

Mr. William Wells,

Haines, Alaska.

Dear Mr. Wells:

I am much pleased to hear of the good work which you have been doing at Haines as supply for the native church during the absence of Rev. Mr. Denton. My only disappointment has been that Mrs. Wells could not be with you.

Rev. Denton will return to Haines January first. We will not need you therefore at Haines after the close of December and I am writing to you now so that you can make your plans to return to Sitka. I would like to see you as you pass through Juneau on your return. Will you let me know when you will be going through Juneau. I expect to be at home about the first of January and during Christmas week.

I have just returned from Sitka and find the people there interested in a new church building. When I see you I would like to talk that matter over with you.

Sincerely yours,

James H. Eit

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.

HEADQUARTERS
NO. 156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

TERRITORY OF ALASKA
JAMES H. CONDIT, D. D., GENERAL MISSIONARY
JUNEAU, ALASKA

December 1, 1920

Rev. John Dixon, D.D.,
156 5th Avenue, New York.

My dear Dr. Dixon:

In reply to your letter of November 5th with its inquiry regarding the employment of Mr. William Wells, native elder of Sitka, to care for the work in the native church at Haines during the absence at Juneau of Mr. Denton and the letter of Dr. Young of September 27th relative thereto, would say that I received Dr. Young's letter in due time and made reply to the same under date October 13, as follows:

"I consider it advisable to pay Wells a salary of \$75 per month, with travel expense to and from the field, up to April 1st of next year and that this salary come out of the approved appropriation for the Klukwan missionary salary inasmuch as there is no man at Klukwan and apparently will be none before next April 1st. Wells will be valuable as temporary supply.

But in so employing Wells at Klukwan and Haldane at Hydaburg I consider it important that it be clearly understood with the Presbytery of Alaska that this is only a temporary arrangement and by no means to constitute a precedent for the permanent arrangements of the Presbytery. Some years ago a number of "lay-workers" were employed in the supplying of native fields. I remonstrated against such arrangement on the ground that it is inadvisable to employ uneducated and unprepared natives as supplies and the plan was discontinued. It is not advisable to revive the system."

Under date October 25th Dr. Young wrote me:-

"I will take up the matter of Wells' salary with Mr. Banks and the Council and let you know the result"

The arrangement with Mr. William Wells was made by the Home Mission Committee during my absence this summer and he was on the field at Haines upon my return to Juneau, or shortly after, while Mr. Denton soon after came to Juneau to supply during Mr. Bruce's absence. The arrangement with Mr. Denton was made by Mr. Bruce. I have assumed that all this was done in conference and by permission of the Board.

It was the thought of the Home Mission Committee that after the first of January, 1920, at which time Mr. Bruce is expected to return from his vacation, Mr. Denton would return to his work at Haines and Mr. Wells would proceed to Klukwan to supply that vacant church until April 1st. This was conditioned upon Wells's wife coming with him. But this she has failed to do

Dr. Dixon

Oct
-2-

December 1, 1920

and according to recent word coming to me she will not join him. It is not advisable to send a native man to any native mission as supply unless his wife is with him. I therefore consider it inadvisable to send Wells to Klukwan or to continue his services after January 1st. I would advise that he be paid at the rate of \$75 per month and travel expense from Sitka and return from September 1st to January 1st and that he be notified that his services will not be required after that date. Since the time is too short for you to get such word to him before January 1st I am writing him to this effect today and enclose a copy of my letter to him. I do not see how the board can well avoid paying the three months salary due January 1st since the Home Mission Committee of the Presbytery engaged the man and he took up the work in good faith. At the same time I do not understand why the Committee proceeded so to do without the sanction of the Board--provided that was not first obtained.

The travel expense from Sitka to Haines and return is about \$50. This, added to three months salary at \$75 per month, totals \$275. Should you deem it advisable this amount might be sent to me to make settlement with Wells. I believe this would be better than to send the check directly to him.

Sincerely yours,

James H. Condit

Copy

December 3, 1920

Mr. William L. Paul,
Wrangell,
Alaska.

My dear Mr. Paul:

Your communication of November 30th is before me.

It is evident that you are laboring under a misapprehension. I was at Sitka at the time of the opening of the Brotherhood Convention, leaving her the evening of the 11th of November and not reaching home until the morning of the 18th. My business there was urgent and could not be postponed.

The letter signed by your mother under date November 9 in which she urged me to be present did not reach me until on my return. However it would not have made any difference in my plans as it was impossible for me to be at Wrangell during that week.

I preached the Union Thanksgiving Sermon in my regular turn according to custom.

There has been no attempt at evasion on my part and your letter is unjust in so declaring.

Very sincerely yours,

James H. Conner

PRESBYTERY OF ALASKA

DEC 13 1920
PRESBYTERY OF YUKON
JAMES H. CONDIT
STATED CLERK

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.

HEADQUARTERS
No. 156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

TERRITORY OF ALASKA
JAMES H. CONDIT, D.D., GENERAL MISSIONARY
JUNEAU, ALASKA

December 2, 1920

Rev. John A. Marquis, D.D.,
156 5th Avenue,
New York.

Dear Dr. Marquis:

I have recently visited Sitka and while not including in my duties any official relation with the Sheldon Jackson School I am deeply interested in that institution as being one of the most important factors in our native work in this part of Alaska. For this reason I make bold to say that in my judgement it is most desirable that Miss Voss visit the school before the end of the fiscal year in order that she may have personal knowledge of conditions and needs.

Should it meet with your approval I would like to have this word passed to Miss Voss.

Sincerely yours,

James H. Condit

Ship channel



Sitka Bay

MAP of SITKA
ALASKA

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.HEADQUARTERS
NO. 156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORKTERRITORY OF ALASKA
JAMES H. CONDIT, D. D., GENERAL MISSIONARY
JUNEAU, ALASKA

December 2, 1920

Rev. John A. Marquis, D.D.,
156 5th Avenue,
New York.

Dear Dr. Marquis:

I have just returned from a week at Sitka in response to an urgent request from our missionary there Rev. R.A. Buchanan. The condition of our work and equipment demands action and I herewith submit the following as a basis for future action. Inasmuch as the Board of Church Election and the Woman's Board are involved in these plans I am enclosing duplicates of this letter in case you should wish to use them.

In order to illustrate the situation I am enclosing copies of a drawing made and photographed by Mr. Buchanan.

There are three elements in the mission work at Sitka. First, the white work; second, the native village; third, the Sheldon Jackson School.

Our missionary is called upon to minister to these three elements. Frankly, it is too large a commission to be properly executed by one man. Each of these elements requires specific attention and involves distinctive teaching and preaching. Our missionaries have faithfully attempted to minister to all. The field would hardly warrant two missionaries from our Men's Board. On the other hand there is work for two men.

At present there are two church buildings in use. The Native Church is on the School Grounds and is marked "B". This building is also used by the pupils of the Sheldon Jackson School. It is supposed to furnish a place for all native activities. But, in the past, the school interests have been emphasized at the expense of the native village interests. The location of the native village is indicated by the letter "E". It is at least half a mile from the village to the church building. It is too far from the church for the best results in attendance. In addition, because of the difference in mental qualifications, the services held for natives have been largely planned for the school population. In consequence the village is poorly represented in the church services.

The White Church building is indicated by the letter "C". The site is one of the most attractive in Sitka. There is a gradual slope from the church to the beach and it faces on the public square.

Both buildings are unfit for their present use. The white church is too small to accomodate the interesting Sunday School and evening audience meeting there at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. In addition it is an old structure built twenty-five or more years ago.

The native church building is also an old structure, hard to heat and with its present heating plant out of commission and worn out. It is not adapted to present needs being antiquated and uncomfortable. As I have already stated the chief objection to it is its location which puts it out of reach of the native people of the village.

It is now proposed to build a new church which shall meet all the necessities of this field. The plan is to erect one building adapted to all needs and to be located on the site of the white church. To this plan the white congregation agrees. The thought is to erect a building with audience and Sunday School rooms upstairs and a high basement, for which the lot is especially adapted, of sufficient capacity to accomodate the native audience so that in case of the necessity of two services conducted simultaneously an auditorium would be available below as well as above. This would provide for both morning and evening native service--a much needed arrangement--it being the plan to have members of the native session conduct the evening meeting at the same time that the white service is being held upstairs.

I conferred with Prof. McKean with special inquiry as to whether a building downtown would meet the needs of the school religiously. He, as well as Miss Stevenson and others of the school, assure me that the school needs would be as well met in such a building as at present, if not better. I also conferred with representative natives and they also are very positive that such a building, put within reach of the native village, as proposed, would have a very beneficial effect in reaching the village people many of whom now attend the Greek Church. The white people are also unanimous in favor of the arrangement.

The arguments for such a building are, briefly,

First, a common religious centre for Presbyterian activities.

Second, economy--since each organization needs a new building.

Third, efficiency, as providing for the large native village as well as the school and white church, providing a suitable audience room for school activities, rooms for the three Sunday Schools now conducted, and an auditorium in the basement for native use when the upper room is being occupied by the whites.

It is estimated that such a building will cost in the neighborhood of Ten Thousand Dollars at prevailing prices. The larger part of this amount will have to come from the Boards since the white congregation is very small and the natives have little to give.

December 2, 1920

Inasmuch as the Woman's Board will have provision for the religious instruction of the students in the Sheldon Jackson School in such a building as well as an auditorium suitable for graduation exercises and other public gatherings of the school, it will doubtless be ~~their~~ agreeable to them to have a share in the expense of construction. In conference with Prof. McKean I learn that the present native church building, which is on the School grounds and which completes the circle of buildings built around one common centre, could be used to very great advantage in connection with the work of the school. It has occurred to Mr. Buchanan and myself that the Woman's Board might be willing to take over this building at a stipulated price of say \$2,000, which is a very low figure, and that this amount might be made available toward the building fund.

As a part of the preliminaries I would suggest that this proposition be made to the Woman's Board with a view to ascertaining their mind in the matter and that this be determined as soon as possible in order to open the way for farther plans.

It is my judgement that because of the importance of the Sitka field as the seat of the Sheldon Jackson School with its representatives from all over S.E. Alaska, the needs of the native village which is one of the largest in Alaska with a population of 500 to 600, and also because of the needs of the white element of the community for which there is no other protestant church it is most desirable that we provide a suitable and modern house of worship.

The purpose of this letter is to open the way for farther steps and especially to ascertain the mind of the Woman's Board as to taking over the present native church building on the School grounds.

Sincerely yours,

James H. Condit.

Copy

December 2, 1920

Rev. John A. Margis, D.D.,
156 5th Avenue,
New York.

Dear Dr. Margis:

I have just returned from a week at Sitka in response to an urgent request from our missionary there Rev. R.A. Chapman. The condition of our work and equipment ~~is such that~~ ^{attention} I herewith submit the following as a basis for future action. Inasmuch as the Board of Church Extension and the Women's Board are involved in these plans I am enclosing copies of this letter in case you should wish to use them.

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The native church building is also an old structure, hard to heat and with its present heating plant out of commission and worn out. It is not adapted to present needs being antiquated and uncomfortable. As I have already stated the chief objection to it is its location which puts it out of reach of the native people of the village.

It is now proposed to build a new church which shall meet all the necessities of this field. The plan is to erect one building adapted to all needs and to be located on the site of the white church. To this plan the white congregation agrees. The thought is to erect a building with audience and Sunday School rooms upstairs and a high basement, for which the lot is especially adapted, of sufficient capacity to accommodate the native audience so that in case of the necessity of two services conducted simultaneously an auditorium could be available below as well as above. This would provide for both morning and evening native services--a well needed arrangement--it being the plan to have members of the native session conduct the evening meeting at the same time that the white service is being held up stairs.

I conferred with Prof. McKean with special inquiry as to whether a building torn down would meet the needs of the school religiously. He, as well as Miss Stevenson and others of the school, assure me that the school needs would be as well met in such a building as at present, if not better. I also conferred with representative natives and they also are very positive that such a building, put within reach of the native village, as proposed, would have a very beneficial effect in reaching the village people many of whom now attend the Great Church. The white people are also unanimous in favor of the arrangement.

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As a part of the preliminaries I would suggest that this proposition be made to the Woman's Board with a view to ascertaining their mind in the matter and that this be determined as soon as possible in order to open the way for farther plans.

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The purpose of this letter is to open the way for farther steps and especially to ascertain the mind of the Woman's Board as to taking over the present native church building on the School grounds.

Sincerely yours,

James H. Ennis

DEC 13 1920

PRESBYTERY OF ALASKA

PRESBYTERY OF YUKON
JAMES H. CONDIT
STATED CLERK

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.

HEADQUARTERS
NO. 156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

TERRITORY OF ALASKA
JAMES H. CONDIT, D. D., GENERAL MISSIONARY
JUNEAU, ALASKA

December 3, 1920

Rev. John A. Marquis, D.D.,
156 5th Avenue,
New York.

Dear Dr. Marquis:

Two recent inquiries have come to me relative to employment of missionaries, or their wives, in other lines than missionary activity.

One missionary has asked what the attitude of the Board would be as to his wife accepting a position in the local native school. The family consists of father, mother and a small child.

My reply was that the Board would not favor such an arrangement, inasmuch as, notwithstanding the fact that the wives are not commissioned, it is understood that the services of the wife are included in the Board's contract. In this particular instance I called attention to the fact that if the wife were engaged in school activities the husband would have the care of the child to the detriment of his work as missionary.

The other case is that of Rev. Buchanan, at Sitka. By agreement with Mr. Buchanan I am presenting his case. He is now giving two days a week of his time to teaching manual training in the Sheldon Jackson School. The compensation which he receives is being applied on a store bill contracted at the School store house. Mr. Buchanan has a family of seven to provide for. He tells me that it is impossible for him to support his family on his present salary and that supplementary work is essential to his remaining in the work in Alaska. He is a good man, useful and consecrated to his work. In his case I would be inclined to make exception since he is engaged in missionary service while teaching in the School. At the same time there is no question that the needs of his field are such as to provide for all of his activities for all of his time without taking on any extra work.

In dealing with such cases it would be of service if I might have a direct statement from you as to the Board's attitude on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

James H. Condit

DEC 13 1920

PRESBYTERY OF ALASKA

PRESBYTERY OF YUKON
JAMES H. CONDIT
STATED CLERKTHE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.HEADQUARTERS
NO. 156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORKTERRITORY OF ALASKA
JAMES H. CONDIT, D. D., GENERAL MISSIONARY
JUNEAU, ALASKA

December 3, 1920

Rev. John A. Marquis, D.D.,
156 5th Avenue, New York.

Dear Dr. Marquis:

to

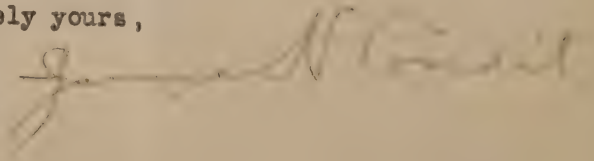
According to the enclosed you will receive, or may have received by this time, a number of documents from William Paul of Wrangell, setting forth certain derelictions of mine. He is the son of a native man and woman formerly associated with our work at Sitka. His father was drowned while on a missionary errand. The mother married a native of Wrangell under old custom pressure much to the regret of her mission friends. The three sons attended school and obtained a fair education but not one of them has amounted to any thing. One of them, ~~and~~ I think the writer of this letter, set out to study for the ministry but did not carry out his plans and this was a great disappointment to all who were interested in him and the family.

Both this William Paul and his brother Louie Paul are agitators, ashamed of the fact that they are natives and doing all that they can to produce dissatisfaction among the native people. They are conceited, lazy and worthless. However, they are capable of annoying and ~~not~~ doing harm.

The Native Brotherhood meeting came at a time which I had set for going to Sitka in response to the urgent request of the missionary there. It was impossible for me to accept the invitation extended to be present and address the Convention. As William Paul is president and Louie ~~Paul~~ Paul secretary of the Brotherhood not only I but other friends of the natives have come to doubt the benefit of an organization controlled by such natives. However, I would have attended if it had been a physical possibility which it was, not.

I am much distressed over the protracted inability of the Board to find a man for Wrangell. It is now more than a year since their minister left them. They sorely need a man. May we not hope and I know that we are all praying that God will send the man who can care for that hard and needy field.

Sincerely yours,



DEC 13 1920

PRESBYTERY OF ALASKA

PRESBYTERY OF YUKON
JAMES H. CONDIT
STATED CLERK

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.

HEADQUARTERS
NO. 156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

TERRITORY OF ALASKA
JAMES H. CONDIT, D. D., GENERAL MISSIONARY
JUNEAU, ALASKA

December 4, 1920

Rev. J.A. Marquis, DD.,
156 5th Avenue,
New York.

Dear Dr. Marquis:

Your letter of November 11th is before me. I have been at home but a few days at a time since returning from Barrow, being on itineration in S.E. Alaska, via gas boats. From all gas boats, Good Lord, deliver us! But, it has to be done. I am now catching up on correspondence.

As I study the Barrow situation I am more than ever inclined to follow Luther's conception of a personal, malignant, devil, who delights in spoiling good plans for righteousness. And, notwithstanding the orthodox position as to his torrid tendencies, I am convinced that ice bergs have no terror for him and that he camped at Barrow long enough this summer to thoroughly mess up things. Also, like Luther, please God he shall not best us in the establishment of this devil fighting plant at the point "farthest north". Also, there are other than Eskimo "devils" there.

I presume that you, as I, have received the announcement of the "betrothal" of "Capt. C.T. Peterson and Miss Olive May Jordan". As I understand it this is the Captain of the Hermann on which Miss Jordan sailed from Teller to Barrow. It is interesting to speculate on the influence this had on Miss Jordan's return.

Under all conditions I believe that the mission will not suffer by the coming of Dr. and Mrs. Spence and Miss Jordan. The latter does not seem to have had a very comprehensive conception of her calling. This, it seems to me, is indicated in her letter to you, which does not please me a little bit. I, also, am sorely disappointed in her. I fear that she mistook the love of adventure for the love of souls.

active We must bear in mind that she will continue to be a more or less factor in Barrow matters should she marry Capt. Peterson. I do not doubt but that she will accompany him on his next trip north. It is quite important that we retain and maintain friendly relations with the Hermann.

Dr. and Mrs. Spence were in such a nervous state as to not only impair their usefulness as missionaries but also to imperil their physical welfare. They were entirely incapacitated to see things normally or to exert a healthful moral influence because so prejudiced against the government teachers. All in all it is best that they have retired from the active work and they should not be employed again in any active capacity in Alaska. The time has come for them to rest.

I thoroughly agree that the thing to do now is to get a young man of consecration and vision to take charge of the hospital next summer. He ought to have an experienced nurse, also, I believe.

I do not see how Mrs. Eide can do this work even if she were qualified, which I doubt. Her family duties would make it impossible for her to serve as nurse in the hospital inasmuch as she has three small children.

I gather from Eide's letter that it is important that there be definite instructions as to the work expected of Eide and his wife. In my judgement he should be the "man of all work". There will be much to do in furnace care, getting ice and water, care of building, assistance in mushing dogs to the point or travel by boat, etc., etc. This is his field and he is not fit to teach or preach except in a limited way and under the control and advice of the man in charge.

Mrs. Eide, it seems to me, should be denominated as interpreter and general helper in the mission work. I do not believe that she can fill the requirements as nurse, excepting, perhaps, in emergency and as helper.

Next year will be Dr. Spence's opportunity to represent the Presbytery of Yukon as Commissioner, if he elects to go, and it occurs to me that it would be helpful to use him in furthering the Barrow Hospital plans. at that time. He is deserving of all honor for the faithful service rendered at Barrow in the face of so great difficulties and in view of the fact that our own great church could not furnish a man for that place although we pled for him for two years.

The suggestion of Mr. Brown that the Eskimo of Barrow need more soap and less religion is right to the point. And what he means is that it is rather useless to emphasize moral cleanliness as long as physical uncleanness is rampant. Good old Dr. Spence undertook to check tendencies toward adulterous relations by reading portions from the Confession of Faith and Mosaic Law!

In this connection I cannot too strongly second Mr. Gould's suggestion that arrangements be made to ship next year's supplies directly from San Francisco to Barrow through the Liebes company. I could have made such arrangements there last spring if I had been able to get the information as to needed space and also if we had been ready to ship our stuff when their boat sailed. It occurs to me also that it would pay the Board to have a representative in San Francisco to make the arrangements and supervise the buying rather than to have it done by correspondence. Perhaps Mr. Gould could attend to this personally.

But, whatever is done ought to be done quickly. For my own part I do not have much confidence in the Bureau of Education's plan to put the "Boxer" in commission this year. Mr. Lopp is just now on his way to Washington to plead for the necessary appropriation. Our plans should be made for this coming year on the basis of finding some other way of shipping to Barrow.

And, in this plan should be included whatever arrangements are made for St. Lawrence Island and Wainwright. But, it must be attended to soon and by that I mean early in the coming year.

I will take up the Metlakatla situation and Dr. Myers' letters in another communication.

Cordially yours,

James H. Gould

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.

DEC 17 1920

HEADQUARTERS
NO. 156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORKTERRITORY OF ALASKA
JAMES H. CONDIT, D. D., GENERAL MISSIONARY
JUNEAU, ALASKA

December 7, 1920.

Rev. J.A. Marquis, D.D.,
156 5th Avenue,
New York.

Dear Dr. Marquis:

I have read with interest the proposal of Dr. Young with respect to his plans for the coming year.

This plan involves two main purposes. First, the survey of the mouth of the Kuskokwim and adjacent territory. Second, the obtaining of pictures, motion and otherwise.

If a survey of Nelson Island and Nunivak and contiguous territory is made it should be made by myself, and not Doctor Young, inasmuch as subsequent responsibility in establishment of missions and oversight of same would devolve upon me.

No matter who makes this survey it is not necessary to make the long, arduous and expensive itinerary mapped out by Dr. Young in order to accomplish it. I have already mapped out a program for myself along this line and would go to St. Michael and from there down by small boat to the mouth of the Kuskokwim. This is the economical way to get at it.

In so far as Bristol Bay is concerned the recommendation ~~which~~ which I made in 1914, after thoroughly covering that section, that an orphanage be established, has been realized by the Bureau of Education which has built such an institution at Dillingham and has gathered into it the children of the flu victims. No farther steps should be taken by the church until it is carefully ascertained whether this provision is ample. If steps are taken it is probable that it will have to be in connection with the work of the government.

In so far as the ~~publicity~~ publicity feature is concerned pictures, etc., I am decidedly of the opinion that the expense involved is out of all proportion to the gain to be obtained.

In addition, as I have intimated to Dr. Young, he has laid out for himself a n itinerary which a young and active man would shrink from and which is impossible for a man of his age.

Dr. Young speaks of being in Juneau for the meeting of the Territorial Legislature in order to attend to needed legislation, etc. It is not necessary for him to be here for that purpose.

In spite of the good Doctor's roseate dreams, the same he has had all these years, Alaska just now needs no word paintings nor poetical effusions and has already had too much of that kind of thing. She is down on her uppers. It is not a hopeless situation but it has brought disappointment to those most interested. It is a poor time to talk of "millions" of population. "Thousands of eager miners" are not flocking to her shores.

December 7, 1920

No grist mill had been set up in the Tanana early this fall and that section still buys its flour from the outside.

The pulp mills are coming but there is nothing in that or any other promise for the future which calls for any farther turning on of the lime light. We have suffered from that in the past. Alaska has a future and is a valuable possession but it is not a possession to go into ecstasy over. It needs intelligent developement and not so much advertising.

We have legitimate needs which must be looked after--a new church at Sitka ; a new manse at Wrangell; reestablishment of our St. Lawrence work; a new, small mission at Wainwright as well as the maintenance of that already established. In my judgement the agencies of the Boards will be not justified in putting \$12,000 into this enterprise or in at even a much less expense financing an enterprise which promises so little return for the mission work of Alaska.

Sincerely yours,

James H. Conant

DEC 17 1920

Copy

December 7, 1920

Rev. S. Hall Young, D.D.,
156 5th Avenue,
New York.

Dear Dr. Young:

I have before me, and have had for some time, your letter of November 12th, with accompanying recommendation concerning your relation to the Alaska work for the coming year. The latter I have given careful consideration.

It is with real regret that I must say that I do not approve of the plan for I know how your heart is in Alaska.

First, if a survey is made of any portion of Alaska in the interest of our agencies I should make it and not you inasmuch as the responsibility of establishing missions and overseeing them is mine.

Second, a survey of the lower Kuskokwim can be most economically made from St. Michael and I have already considered plans for reaching Nelson and Sanivak Islands from that place. As to Bristol Bay it is not necessary now to make a tour of that section. Any investigation of need there should begin with conference with the Bureau of Education which has carried out my suggestion of a few years ago by establishing an orphanage at Dallington where the flu orphans now are.

Third, the outlay required for obtaining the publicity matter does not give promise of sufficient returns to the church to warrant such expenditure.

We need a new church building at Sitka, a new manse at Wrangell, the reestablishing of our St. Lawrence Id. work, the establishment of a small mission at Fairwright, and these enterprises ought to be put on foot this coming summer. I do not feel that the Board ought to spend the money for the trip which you have outlined, in the face of these real and immediate needs, because I do not believe that there will be an adequate return to the Church.

As I have already stated I am sorry that I must take this position but in honesty I cannot do otherwise.

Sincerely yours,

James H. Condit

December 8, 1920.

Rev. James H. Condit, D.D.,

Juneau, Alaska.

My dear Dr. Condit:-

Dr. Marquis is away and I think it better to delay answering your several letters just received until there is an opportunity for Dr. Marquis to consider the questions which you raise.

I write now simply to say there was a reason why we did not encourage Mr. Bierkemper to go to Alaska; by no means, an insuperable one, but sufficiently strong to make us defer a decision, especially if there should be some well qualified person who could be found to take up the work. Some time when we meet, I will hold myself in readiness to tell you more about Mr. Bierkemper.

Dr. Young has just suggested that Diven be sent to Wrangell. I don't know whether Diven would care to take up the work there even for the winter. However, if you should so decide you need not delay in making the transfer. While we have no right to influence any Presbytery in the choice of a commissioner to the General Assembly, it may not be improper for me to say that personally I think it would do Diven a lot of good to be chosen by the Presbytery of Yukon for their commissioner at this time.

You will be interested to know that in response to an inquiry made by me from the Secretary of the Interior at Washington as to who had the authority to give or withhold the use of the church building at Metlakatla, he has replied, that "the authority rests with the Secretary of the Interior". I understand this to mean that whatever importance the Secretary of the Interior might attach to the wishes of the Metlakatlan people, nonetheless, the decision as to the use of the building is with him and not with them. It follows, as it seems to me, that the new Presbyterian Church has no right to use the building without the permission of the Secretary of the Interior.

I am enclosing a letter received by Dr. Young from Dr. B. L. Myers. I am sending the original that you might take note of Dr. Marquis' notation. My recollection of the matter is that it was agreed by all of us here that it would be better to have one church whatever the denomination in Metlakatla rather than two churches that would compete with each other and probably conflict. Our idea did not take the form of a definite proposition however. Kindly return Dr. Myers' letter when you have made such use of it as may seem to you best.

And with all good wishes, I am,

Cordially yours,

Enclosures-
JD/I.

DEC 23 1920

PRESBYTERY OF ALASKA

PRESBYTERY OF YUKON
JAMES H. CONDIT
STATED CLERK

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.

HEADQUARTERS
NO. 156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

TERRITORY OF ALASKA
JAMES H. CONDIT, D. D., GENERAL MISSIONARY
JUNEAU, ALASKA

December 8, 1920

Rev. John A. Marquis, D.D.,
156 5th Avenue, New York.

Dear Dr. Marquis:

I am enclosing herewith copies of letters to Capt. C. T. Pedersen, Arthur Eide, M. A. Brown and Dr. Spence.

The letter which you addressed to Arthur Eide on October 29th has gone forward and I hope will be effectual in placing that ignorant and conceited man. I fear that he will be a source of trouble to whomsoever we may send to Barrow. Mr. Brown's judgement on that ought to be good.

Capt. Pedersen says that he has written you regarding shipping our freight by his company, H. Liebes and Co., San Francisco. I have already indicated my opinion that this is the best arrangement for our interests. If I could have contracted with them last spring for our Barrow shipment I believe that we could have saved half the freight bill by shipping directly from San Francisco by this concern. I visited the firm and found them ready to attend to our needs in an effective way.

They could not only handle the Barrow business but also for Wales and St. Lawrence Id., as well as Wainwright; should the latter two points be opened. But it is imperative that our plans for these places be perfected at the earliest possible date in order that we may get the business in shape as soon as possible after the beginning of the year. I also believe, especially if we take up the St. Lawrence Id and Wainwright projects, that it will be money in the pocket of the Board to have a representative on the field at San Francisco to handle the business personally. In writing to Mr. Gould I suggested that possibly he might do this. If not then I believe that the Board should send me, or some one else familiar with the situation, to do the buying and see to the shipping.

This would involve buying through H. Liebes and Co., and they assured me that they had facilities for furnishing all needed things for any of our missions and at favorable prices. This is the company which has the trading post at Barrow and elsewhere in the Arctic. Capt. Pederson is interested with them.

In my opinion it is doubtful whether the Board of Education can succeed in getting the Boxer in commission this year. Mr. Lopp is just now asking for the necessary appropriation to complete the work on this boat.

Sincerely yours,

James H. Condit

Copy

December 8, 1920

Capt. C.T. Pedersen,
c/o H. Liebes Co.,
San Francisco, California.

Dear Captain Pedersen:

I am in receipt of your letter of the 27th of November and first of all want to congratulate you on the announcement of your coming marriage to Miss Jordan. It was a great disappointment to our Board that Miss Jordan could not see her way clear to remain at Barrow, but, that being decided, no criticism can be offered for your taking our missionary to be yours. I sincerely wish for you every joy of married life and am glad that you are thus able to establish a home for yourself.

In this mail I am writing to Dr. Marquis putting before him the advisability of making arrangements with your company for next year's shipping to Barrow and our other Arctic stations. It is my hope that this matter may be definitely determined in good time to make all preliminary arrangements.

If it is possible I would advise that you visit our Board rooms at 136 5th Avenue, New York, and personally present the matter to our Secretary, Dr. Marquis.

In this connection I want to say that I have appreciated your many kind acts to our missionary force and in behalf of our work in the far north. I feel that we are indebted to you to a large extent and thank you in behalf of the Board.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

James H. Condit

Copy

December 8, 1920

Mr. Arthur Eide,
Barrow,
Alaska.

Dear Mr. Eide:

I have recently read with great interest the letters of Mrs. Eide and yourself to the Board. Surely you have all done good work on the building as the print which Dr. Spence sent indicates.

Recent announcement is to the effect that Miss Jordan and Capt. Pederson are soon to be married. While we all regretted their coming out of Dr. and Mrs. Spence and Miss Jordan, yet, under all the circumstances it was probably for the best. I only hope that you may have no serious epidemic or medical situation. For the religious work I feel that under the leadership of Mr. Brown this can be well taken care of.

I have written to Mr. Brown regarding a careful estimate of next years needs and this should come by earliest mail. Perhaps you can give some assistance in making this estimate. I would also like a careful opinion as to the Wainwright coal for heating the hospital.

In your letter to the Board you ask for direction as to your work at Barrow for the future. My understanding is that you will be a kind of man of all work under the direction of the doctor in charge who will not only have the medical hut also the religious work under his direction and control. There will be much to do around the hospital, care of furnace, providing of water, moving fuel, etc., etc. There will be work plenty for a strong man. Then there will be also the trips to the Point with the dog team or boat, work in which a man of your experience can do splendid work in piloting the missionary in charge. Of course we would want you to assist in the religious work, under the direction of the missionary in charge. But the doctor whom we will send will be in charge of the mission with full power to act in all matters affecting its conduct. You will be under his direction.

As to Mrs. Eide's work I understand that she will be expected to interpret, teach in Sunday School and act as assistant to the missionary in charge in any and every way.

I would like to have a full report as to the progress of the work at Barrow. In the mean time I send my heartiest greetings to Mrs. Eide, the children and yourself.

Sincerely yours,

James H. Condit

Copy

December 8, 1920

Dr. F.H. Spence,
San Ysidro,
California.

Dear Dr. Spence:

Your letter of November 12th, from San Francisco, has been before me for some time. In the mean time copies of letters from Miss Jordan, the Elies, Mr. Brown and Mr. Bloomfield, to the Board, and letters from Capt. Pederson and Dr. Marquis in regard to the situation at Barrow have come to me direct.

With respect to the whole matter I have to say:-

First, that the coming out of Miss Jordan (whose betrothal to Capt. Pederson is announced) and of yourself and Mrs. Spence is a very great disappointment to the Board.

Second, that under the condition of the health of yourself and Mrs. Spence I am in no way censuring you for finally deciding to leave Barrow. I felt that you ought to come out when I saw you.

Third, I am led to believe that the religious work will not seriously suffer in view of the fact that the Browns and Elies are all competent to teach and lead the people. I can only hope that no serious medical complications may arise during the winter.

In my judgement it was a mistake to turn over the religious leadership to Mr. Elie. I feel that Mr. Brown would have been a safer leader. I fear that Mr. Elie will make more or less trouble because of his ignorance and lack of tact.

I am very glad to get the picture of the hospital building and feel that Mr. Brown has done a splendid work in getting the same in shape for winter work. Later reports indicate that the structure is all enclosed and ready for completion after setting in of cold weather. Thank you for the print.

Dr. Marquis assures me that a search will immediately be made for a young and consecrated doctor to take up the Barrow work and I see that in a recent Continent there is an advertisement for such. Let us all pray that God may raise up the right man.

According to our rotary system it is your turn to represent the Presbytery of Yukon in the 1921 Assembly which is to convene at Winona. I hope that you can go as it will be of great interest to the church to have your story of the work at Barrow? Will you let me know at once as to this since in case you cannot represent the Presbytery it is necessary to elect some one else.

I trust that you will find rest after your faithful and arduous service at Barrow. You have done a good work there.

With kind regards to Mrs. Spence, I am

Cordially yours,

Copy

December 8, 1920

Mr. M.A. Brown,
Barrow,
Alaska.

Dear Mr. Brown:

Copies of your letters to the Board have been sent to me and a picture taken by Dr. Spence indicating the splendid progress you have made on the Hospital Building. I not only believe that as you say the Lord has been good to you in this enterprise but also that you have done some excellent work.

Recent information is to the effect that Miss Jordan and Capt. Peterson are soon to be married. While it was a great disappointment to all of us that Miss Jordan and the Spences came out yet taking all things into consideration I feel that it is for the best. The only thing that worries me is that there might be some serious medical news but among you we feel that the religious interests will be properly taken care of. You are the subjects of daily prayer on the part of many.

One of the matters which worries me is the case of Mr. Pitt in his relation to the work. I have been afraid that he would be hard to manage by any one taking the Barrow work. Will you give me your own definite and careful thought as to this. Will he be useful as a man of all work and willing to be such? Does he still have the erroneous opinion that he is in charge of the mission? Could a wise man in charge of the station use him to good advantage in the work? Does he keep up to spiritual ideals and is he a good influence among the natives? The Board should have definite information as to this and I am relying on you to give it with the assurance that all communications on the subject will be accepted as confidential.

The Board should also have a careful estimate of needs for the coming year at the earliest possible date. Will you send such an estimate as nearly as you can make it by return mail.

How much coal reached you? What do you think about the advisability of depending upon the Wainwright coal for heating the hospital?

I hope to hear from you by winter mail and in the mean time I shall often think of you so far from home and friends but not far from the Heavenly Father to whom we all come daily.

With kind regards to Mrs. Brown and the Hides and Crans and also Mrs. Bloomfield, I am

Cordially yours,

James H. Condit

December 15, 1920.

Rev. James H. Condit, D. D.,
Juneau,
Alaska.

Dear Dr. Condit:

I am glad to have your letters, all of which came together yesterday. In regard to the Point Barrow situation, we have been in correspondence with Dr. Spence, who seems to have something on his mind that he does not want to write about. He evidently wants to come to New York and have a personal conversation with us, and this I suspect is the wisest thing to do. I have written him, however, that our first concern is for him to have sufficient rest and treatment to put himself squarely on his feet again. When he does come East we want him to do some speaking in the churches in behalf of the work at Point Barrow and among the Eskimos.

Your letters have given me the impression that there are elements in the situation at Barrow which you have not yet told us, namely, you have expressed your judgment that Dr. Spence's leaving Point Barrow will not be a serious loss to our work there -- that, on the contrary, it may help matters. Will you give us the benefit of any information you have? I ask this especially in view of the fact that we may not be able to get a physician to go up there next Spring, and Dr. Spence has expressed his willingness to return under certain conditions.

In regard to his coming as a delegate to the General Assembly, we have received a letter from Mr. Diven of Nenana, who, I think, gave way once before to the effect that he thought it was his ~~first~~ turn and is anxious to come. We can use Dr. Spence as soon as he is in this country, at any rate, whether he is a commissioner or not. However, this is not a matter for the Board to decide, but for the Presbytery. I do not wonder that you are impressed with the activity of the devil up at Point Barrow. He has been so busy in these parts about New York the past few years that I was consoling myself that he did not have much time to devote elsewhere.

Will you be on the lookout for a young physician and his wife, together with a nurse, to go up there next Spring?

Your outline of the situation relative to the Eides I think is right. We have been advertising and combing the country to get a physician, but so far without success. Furthermore, we want no more experiments with nurses like Miss Jordan. She has written to the Board here stating that she will pay for the expense she caused us, but that does not atone for her "jumping her job," in the language of Gould. She is now in Canada at her mother's, with her husband. She and Pedersen have already been married and I presume are on their wedding trip. They have written that they will be here in New York almost any time and I suppose I will have to face them with what grace I can, although it is going to be diffi-

December 15, 1920.

cult to me to hide my disgust in the matter. I appreciate what you say in regard to our dependance on the Herrmann to get supplies to Barrow. Mr. Gould thinks the Liebes people hold us up like pirates. If you get any light on a possibility for next year let me know.

We concur in your judgment in regard to the missionary's wife teaching school or engaging in outside activities. It is true that we do not pay her a salary, but we ought to pay sufficient to the husband to support his family, including his wife, and I think we are doing that. The missionaries in Porto Rico, on account of the high cost of living there during the war, broke over and allowed their wives to teach school. The result was not good for the missions and confirmed our fears that when the wife teaches, the husband has to stay at home to take care of the house. The Board has a definite rule to this effect.

I will take up with the Woman's Board at my earliest convenience the situation with reference to the school at Sitka. What their attitude would be I have no means of knowing at present. Mrs. Brady was in the office while I was West last week to see Dr. Dixon in regard to the situation there. She is rather familiar with it and says that the natives have been neglected so much that they are going into the Greek church in pretty large numbers. She thinks also that it is a mistake for our men to lose their touch with the native brotherhood, as it is composed of the best type of Indians in the territory.

William Paul is evidently very sensitive and his letter to you is unjustifiable on any grounds. But from what Mr. Diven gathered from Mrs. Brady, it is important to keep in close and sympathetic touch with his brotherhood.

You may remember that Mr. Allaben two or three years ago proposed bringing Mr. Diven to Sitka to take charge of the school. It was not thought best to release him at that time, but he seems to be so much of a missionary that the question has arisen in our minds that if he were in charge of the white church at Sitka he would take more interest in the natives.

We understand from your letter that Mr. Buchanan may be coming out soon. Mr. Diven has written that Nenana has collapsed and he wants to come to the Coast. What would you think, in case Mr. Buchanan retires, of putting Diven in charge of the church at Sitka, make him get into close touch with the school there, and at the same time give as much of his attention as his work would permit to restoring the natives to their loyalty to the Presbyterian church? William Paul has not written to the Board as yet and probably will not do so.

Wishing you all the joys of the Christmas season, I am

Very sincerely yours,

JAN:ES

December 17, 1920.

Rev. James H. Condit, D.D.,

Juneau, Alaska.

My dear Dr. Condit:-

The Board took favorable action yesterday upon your recommendation concerning Mr. William Wells and granted him three months' salary from October the first at \$75.00 per month, with an additional sum of \$50., if it be required, to cover his necessary traveling expenses between Sitka and Haines and return.

Cordially yours,

Clerk of the Board.

JD/I.

Clerk of the Board
Mr. Banks
Grant to Wm. Wells, Alaska

December 17, 1920.

Mr. Banks:-

The Board yesterday voted to grant to Mr. William Wells, a native lay-worker, the sum of \$75.00 per month for three months from October first, and \$50. to cover his traveling expenses from Sitka to Haines where he went to supply during the absence of Rev. C. G. Denton. Dr. Condit in making the recommendation asked that the check for the full amount, viz.: \$275. be sent directly to him instead of to Mr. Wells. Will you please do this?

Cordially yours,

I. (Alaska Presbytery)

Clerk of the Board.

December 17, 1920.

Rev. James H. Condit, D.D.,

Juneau, Alaska.

My dear Dr. Condit:-

It falls to my lot, to write you concerning the action of the Board upon your request for a grant of \$125.05, to cover expenses incurred in the matter of an electric heater, linoleum and wiring your house. Both the Executive Council and the Board were quite reluctant to take the action which they did because of their sincere desire to act favorably upon your every request and to do all that may properly be expected to provide for your comfort. The action of the Board was that they declined with regret to make the grant requested and two reasons principally brought them to this conclusion:

One was that the items named in your bill were not understood by the Board as being in any sense included in the plan for furnishing Alaskan mansees. The Board expected as it appears in article two, "to furnish the heavier and more permanent articles". The items mentioned in your bill do not seem to the Board to come under this description.

But the Board further felt that even if it waived the interpretation of the plan for your benefit that it would sooner or later be confronted by practically similar requests from every missionary, which it would hesitate to grant, and if granted, would throw the plan of furnishing mansees into the discard. They therefore believed that the wisest thing was to decline making the grant.

It is our sincere hope that upon further reflection you will approve of the action of the Board.

Cordially yours,

JD/I.

Clerk of the Board.

December 21, 1920.

Rev. James H. Condit, D. D.,
Juneau,
Alaska.

Dear Dr. Condit:

I have your letter with reference to the Metlakatla situation. Would you be willing to allow me to send a copy of your letter to Dr. Myers? He has stated his side of the case so fully to us in his two visits that I think it is only fair that you should know that there is another side and another view, and you have stated this other side more fully in your last letter than I have seen it elsewhere. I make it a rule, however, not to pass anybody's letters to other hands without the consent of the writer.

Dr. Young brought me your letter to him the same day yours reached me. I am sorry you wrote him as it came the day after the Board meeting, at which he was definitely and finally told that the Board could not support him on a trip to Alaska. I have written you many times, and stated to you the summer of 1919, that there was no likelihood of his going. He was a good deal hurt by your letter, and it came at a time when his woes seemed to be accumulating. The doctor had also that morning told him that one of his grandchildren had scarlet fever, and altogether his burden seemed heavier than he could bear, and I was truly sorry for him. Since then it has turned out that his granddaughter, whilst very sick, has ptomaine poisoning instead of scarlet fever. She is in a serious condition which distresses the Doctor very much.

Captain Pedersen and his wife have been in to see me and have shed a good deal of light on Dr. Spence's reason for leaving Point Barrow. It seems that after you went away he suffered from something like a physical collapse and Captain Pedersen said he was afraid to take him on shipboard for fear he would die en route. Both he and Mrs. Pedersen are very firmly of the opinion that neither he nor his wife would have survived another winter at Point Barrow. Mrs. Pedersen was not able to give as clear an account for herself. I did not press her for reasons inasmuch as the thing is over now and she is making restitution to the Board for some of the money she was given. Besides it is quite likely that we will have to depend on her husband to get our stuff up there thereafter. However, I ended the interview with the impression that she had fallen in love with the Captain on his way up and simply waited for him to return from his eastward trip to join him. She looks quite radiant in her Arctic furs and seems to think the Captain is a great fellow.

This brings me to another subject. Miss Voss, of the Woman's Board, commends to us Miss Esther Gibson as a good prospect for the position of nurse at Point Barrow hospital. Miss Voss says you know her and I would like to have your opinion. The Woman's Board has not yet reported on the Sitka matter which you referred to them a week ago.

The Board at its meeting last Thursday was a good deal perplexed about

December 21, 1920.

the whole Metlakatla situation. The unanimous opinion of the members of the Board seemed to be that we ought not to push in there with an additional church in so small a population. We would not do it in this country. It was suggested and approved by the Board that Mr. Gould be asked to go to Metlakatla at his early convenience to see if he could compose the situation. I am very doubtful about his going. In the first place, it is now winter and he is pretty well up in years, and in the second place, I am doubtful about his being able to do any good. Dr. Dixon, as Clerk of the Board, I presume has written him ere this. The thought of the Board was that if somebody who had not been implicated in the tangle on either side were to go there, he might be able to get the people together on a common church program. Some of them feel that if the Presbyterian church is to continue there it ought not to use the present church building as long as there was any considerable body of people who wanted it for an independent church. They also were generally of the opinion that our Board ought not to contribute to Marsden's salary in case he is made the pastor of the Presbyterian church. I should like to know what you think about this. There is a growing feeling about the multiplication of churches in small communities in this country, and especially in the East. Many of the Board expressed themselves in a practically new situation like Metlakatla it was a sin to have more than one church. Let me know what you think.

With warmest regards of the season, I am

Very sincerely yours,

JAM:ES

P. S. We learn from the Secretary of the Interior that the Government claims all the property belonging to the Duncan estate at Metlakatla, including the church. I presume no decision can be made as to who ought to occupy the existing building there without permission from the Government. Mr. Lopp is to be here tomorrow or the next day and I will discuss the whole matter with him.

JAN 10 1921

PRESBYTERY OF ALASKA

PRESBYTERY OF YUKON
JAMES H. CONDIT
STATED CLERK

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.

HEADQUARTERS
NO. 156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORKTERRITORY OF ALASKA
JAMES H. CONDIT, D. D., GENERAL MISSIONARY
JUNEAU, ALASKA

December 31, 1920

Rev. John A. Marquis, D.D.,
156 5th Avenue,
New York.

Dear Dr. Marquis:

Your letter of the 15th inst. is at hand.

Perhaps I had not made entirely clear my estimate of the status of Dr. Spence at Barrow. For several years there had existed a very unfortunate disagreement between the government school teacher at Barrow and Dr. Spence. This teacher is a Presbyterian minister by the name of Cram and he was formerly stationed at Barrow as our missionary. If all the letters which Dr. Spence has written in criticism of the Crams were in your hands you would find it a time exhausting process to even glance at them. To sum it up I feel that both parties are in the wrong. Mr. Cram is a man of little judgement, hot temper and overbearing conceit. Doubtless he had in mind his own former service with our Board and felt that his methods were superior to those of Dr. Spence. Also, being the postmaster and Commissioner at Barrow, he stood as the sole representative of the government and felt and used his power in unpleasant ways. On the other hand Dr. Spence being old and nervously exhausted read into Mr. Cram's actions much which did not exist in fact. He imagined many slights which I doubt not were non-existent. Mr. Cram and he differed sharply on matters of biblical interpretation as well as of Christian life. They clashed in their teaching--even in the Sunday School.

To such a pass had matters come that these two families would not communicate with each other except by formal letter. Upon Mr. Spence inviting the Crams to Thanksgiving dinner the latter wrote a letter of regrets! When I arrived in Barrow this quarrel had already, after two weeks, injected itself into the relations between the Browns and Miss Jordan and the parties on the field. Because the Browns had accepted an invitation from the Crams to live in the government school building the Spences were already convinced that the Browns were wrong. Dr. Spence, with tears in his eyes, told me how the Browns had fallen into the hands of the enemy and how there was no hope of harmony through the winter. Whenever he tried to talk to me about the matter he broke down and cried. I finally told him that he had been so long at Barrow and was so overworked that he no longer saw things in their true relations and that I was convinced that many of the charges he brought against Mr. Cram were the imaginations of his own mind. I also told him that the Browns were most excellent people and worthy of all confidence. By taking this position I at once offended the doctor.

As a matter of fact the Crams and Spences had come to the place where nothing that the one did could by any possibility be considered right by the other. They were hopelessly deadlocked on each and every proposition affecting the community life and work. This was the first reason why I felt that it was really better for the work that Dr. Spence come out.

Again, I have felt that because of the peculiar religious type of the Spences they were not the best religious leaders for Barrow.

The doctor belongs to the old school in interpretation of life and practice. He taught the Eskimo that it was a mortal sin to kill a whale on Sunday. Cram taught them to go after the whale whenever it came near to shore. Steffason cites this as an illustration of faulty missionary teaching, not with especial reference to Dr. Spence, but of former missionaries. The taking of a whale is of such importance to the whole community that every opportunity to get one should be improved. I would feel like telling them that the Lord had been good in sending the whale to them even on Sunday and evidently intended that they should go after it on that day. This, I would say, was a work of "necessity and mercy". But not so with Dr. Spence.

Then, again, in order to reprove the adulterous practices of some of the people the good doctor read to them at length from the Presbyterian Book of Discipline as well as from other similar sources of authority. I suspect that even the Eskimo found the quoted chapters dry fodder.

It is my candid opinion that what these people needed and need is more practical instruction in living, physically, and less catechism and theory. But I am inclined to think that good Dr. Spence and his wife feel that the only salvation for these Eskimo is to teach them the catechism and get them out to just as many prayer meetings and services as possible.

A strong argument against their return to Barrow is their age. It was freely said that both of these estimable people are childish because of their age. I found them so at Barrow but charged it in part to their overwork. They are feeble old people and should never be returned to such a post as Point Barrow.

In addition the attitude of the Bureau of Education is such as to make it inadvisable that they return. Mr. Lopp, you will find, is positively opposed to their return. I feel that on the other hand we have a right to protest against the retention of the Crams at Barrow as they will be trouble makers for any representatives we may place there.

In opposition to all this is the discouraging word that you have found no one to take their place at Barrow. I earnestly hope and pray that the Lord will raise up a young and active physician for this work.

With regard to Mr. Diven and the Assembly it is to be said that it is not his turn to go to the Assembly but rather that of Mr. Marple. The latter, however, has signified his desire to exchange with Mr. Diven allowing him to go this year and he the following year. But it is the right of Dr. Spence to represent the Presbytery this year if he so chooses and I have written him asking whether he desires to so do this year. I am hoping to hear from him soon as to this. Mr. Diven has not given up his turn to represent Yukon Presbytery having been but three years in its membership.

I do not think that Mr. Buchanan of Sitka contemplates leaving that field. He will represent the Presbytery of Alaska in the coming Assembly but expects to return to Sitka. So there will be no vacancy there and it does not appear that Mr. Diven could be transferred there. But the people of Wrangell are very anxious to have Mr. Diven and I have asked him if he would accept that work. I very much hope that he will. It is a difficult field, which he can fill. I hope to be informed by wire soon as to Diven's decision.

Trusting that this may be a good year with you and yours, I am

Cordially yours,

James N. Condit

